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THE TIMES

No. 65,102

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 3 1994

Heseltine suffers stinging defeat

Rebel Tories reject PO compromise

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine's plans to privatise the Post Office were in tatters last night after a large group of backbench Tory rebels told him to abandon all ideas of selling off even part of the industry.

Amid signs that the controversy was far from over, Heseltine's plans to privatise the Post Office were in tatters last night after a large group of backbench Tory rebels told him to abandon all ideas of selling off even part of the industry.



Heseltine fought hard to save the privatisation

They also rejected Mr Heseltine's preferred option of a sale of 51 per cent of the Royal Mail and an alternative scheme involving the sale of a minority stake while keeping the business in the public sector. All he apparently has left to offer is what he has regarded as his last favoured outcome - the creation of greater commercial freedom within the public sector - and the one repeatedly pressed on him by Labour.

The vehemence of diehard Conservative opposition to the scheme and the apparent reluctance of Mr Major and Richard Ryder, the Chief Whip, to confront as many as 20 dissidents - comfortably outweighing the Government's majority of 14 - means that today's Cabinet meeting is almost certain to drop Post Office privatisation from the Queen's Speech on November 16 announcing legislation for the new session of Parliament.

Many Tory rightwingers and personal allies of Mr Heseltine were fuming about

the Government's apparent weakness in the face of the threatened revolt. But Mr Heseltine appeared ready to concede defeat and forgo his right to appeal to his Cabinet colleagues to gamble on beating off their backbench critics in the division lobbies.

Despite the reluctance of Mr Major and Mr Ryder to provoke a confrontation that could well end in a humiliating defeat for the Government, some MPs believe that a tough line from the top would force most of the rebels back into line. But last night there was little sign that the Prime Minister would want to take such a risk.

MPs also detected wider political implications in the affair, with angry Thatcherites claiming that the apparent climbdown was a further sign of Prime Ministerial weakness. Some leftwingers close to Mr Heseltine joined the chorus, warning that the Government was losing control of

the political agenda and putting itself at the mercy of events in its quest for a quiet life.

Edward Leigh, a junior Trade Minister responsible for Post Office privatisation until sacked by Mr Major last year, said: "If we bottle out of this, Labour will accuse us of drift and having run out of steam. This is about the whole nature of the Government and what we are here to do. We look like having a technical Queen's Speech. Are we in the business of politics or administration?"

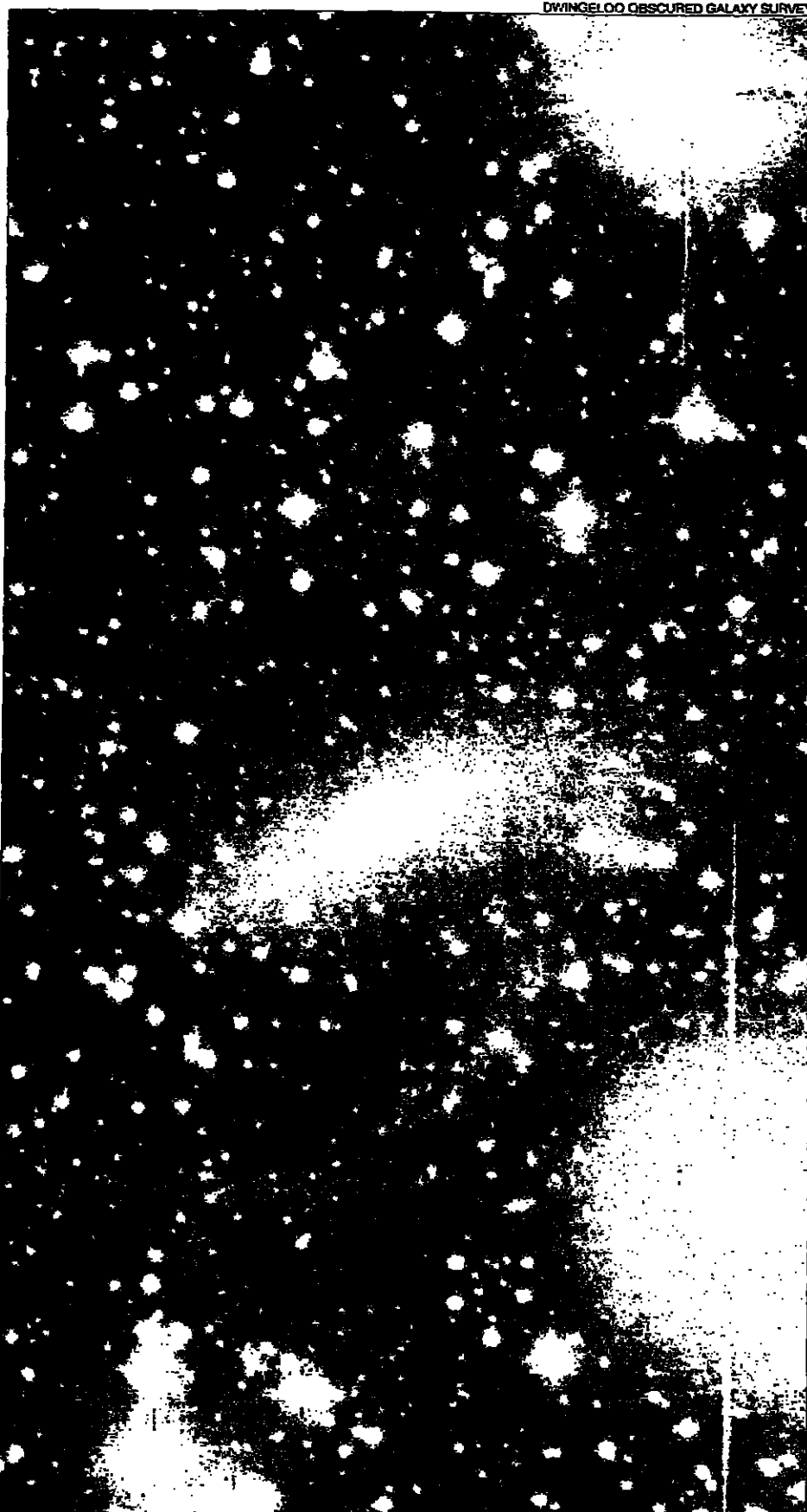
Mr Heseltine was widely seen as having suffered a serious personal defeat but one mitigated by the fact that he had shown backbone and reminded the restive right of the party that he, at least, was prepared to press ahead with the radical agenda established in the 1980s.

One leading leftwinger said: "The Government seems to think that a tight legislative programme is the way to avoid trouble. It is not: it is a recipe for trouble."

But senior ministers said that from the outset the privatisation proposal had looked hazardous. Mr Heseltine had been given every chance to deploy his renowned powers of persuasion on the dissidents. His failure to do so meant that the Government could not press ahead knowing it started defeat in the face.

"The majority is not there. You cannot do it. It would be confirmed on page 2, col 4

Peter Kiddell, page 9
Leading article, page 19



A spiral-shaped new galaxy has been discovered behind the Milky Way. It is called Dwingeloo 1 after the Dutch radio telescope through which it was first spotted. Page 7

MPs call for editor to face charges over fax deception

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

CONSERVATIVE MPs last night stepped up their war against *The Guardian* newspaper by calling for criminal charges to be laid against Peter Preston, its editor.

As the Commons voted to refer the newspaper's behaviour in the Jonathan Aitken affair to a privileges committee investigation, Mr Preston was accused of forgery, criminal conspiracy and impersonation and a senior Tory MP revealed that the matter had already been put before the police. MPs carried by 313 votes to 38 a motion calling on Parliament's most senior committee to launch an inquiry.

Earlier Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, called on the privileges committee to make a report on Tony Benn's defiance of the Commons by publishing his account of a private meeting of its hearing on Tuesday.

During a debate in which Tory fury at the media's handling of recent sleaze allegations boiled over, MPs suggested that in forging a letter with a House of Commons logo to obtain details of Mr Aitken's stay at the Ritz hotel in Paris, the newspaper might be guilty of a "criminal conspiracy".

David Wilshire, Tory MP for Spelthorne, who moved the motion proposing an investigation, said that at best *The Guardian's* methods were "ethically flawed, at worst they were downright criminal".

But Labour MPs seized on the fresh disclosure yesterday that the Government knew of a forged fax almost six months ago but had decided to let the matter rest.

Mohamed Al-Fayed, owner of the Ritz, produced a letter dated May 11 and signed by Mr Aitken which was sent to the hotel manager Frank Klein after the minister's dis-

covery of the use of the fax, containing its forged signature of Jeremy Wright, the minister's private secretary. In it Mr Aitken reveals that both he and the Government considered legal action over the newspaper's activities.

He wrote: "*The Guardian* article has caused surprisingly little serious interest here, probably because it was one of the most boring journalistic examples of an Editor's personalised obsession ever to find its way into print in a newspaper."

"Moreover there is really little or nothing for even an ill-wisher to follow up since nobody has done anything wrong, even in the light of *The Guardian's* somewhat flawed and inaccurate story. Because

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William Rees-Mogg..... 18

of the above-mentioned reaction my present plan is, as my teenage children would say, to 'stay cool'.

"However, I am taking further legal advice and so is the Government in the light of the new dimension to the story which, I believe, has revealed."

As you suspected, the letter on House of Commons notepaper faxed to your accounts department on November 24 1993 is a complete forgery."

Government sources said the decision on whether to take any action at the time against *The Guardian* had been left to Mr Aitken.

Mr Preston had not only admitted to an abuse of Parliament but to criminal activity. Mr Wilshire said, adding: "That is why I have referred this matter to the police as well ... I would welcome the

Continued on page 2, col 3

Duke of York agrees to visit Argentina

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE Duke of York, who fought in the Falklands campaign, is to visit Argentina later this month in a significant sign of rapidly-warming ties between London and Buenos Aires.

His visit, the third royal event in two weeks marking sharply improved relations, has been greeted with mixed feelings by the islanders.

The Duke of Edinburgh yesterday unveiled a statue of General José de San Martín, a Latin American freedom fighter, outside the Argentine Embassy and the Duke of York is to attend a lunch in honour of President Menem's brother today.

Representatives of the Falkland Islands government in

London were not invited to the statue ceremony, and in Port Stanley David Tatham, the Governor, was still smarting after President Menem suggested offering up to \$1.5 million to each islander to persuade them to accept Argentine sovereignty.

The Duke of York, who flew Sea King helicopters from the aircraft carrier *HMS Invincible* in 1982, will begin his six-day trip to Argentina on November 15, and will unveil a statue of George Canning outside the British Embassy, to replace one torn down by mobs during the hostilities.

Yesterday hundreds of Argentinians and dozens of British officials watched the Duke of Edinburgh unveil the statue in Belgrave Square. No speeches were delivered, but the Argentine and British national anthems were sung.

Falklands at odds, page 11
Leading article, page 19

Nadir 'linked to gun attack'

Asil Nadir, the fugitive tycoon, has been accused of links with a failed shooting attempt on an accountant investigating the collapsed Polly Peck empire. There are also reports that Mr Nadir, who jumped bail of £3.5 million in May last year, is coming under pressure from the Northern Cyprus authorities. Page 25

Gielgud honour

The Globe Theatre in the West End of London was renamed the Gielgud Theatre yesterday to mark Sir John's 90th birthday earlier this year. He has acted and directed at the theatre for four decades. Page 7

Kapil Dev retires

Kapil Dev, the world's leading Test match wicket-taker and one of India's great sporting heroes, announced his retirement to become a television commentator. He is 35. Page 48

Budget cut puts 500 spy centre jobs on the line

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

FIVE hundreds jobs are to go at GCHQ, the Government's secret communications centre, after pressure from the Treasury to reduce its £600 million annual budget.

The cuts will reduce the workforce, which includes computer and language specialists, to 5,500 within the next three years. GCHQ outstations abroad may have to be closed.

Last night, the staff federation at the electronic eavesdropping centre at Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, said that it was concerned at the continuing cutbacks. Another 500 employees are in the process of leaving through early retirement or voluntary redundancy after an earlier restructuring review. A signals intelligence centre at Cheadle, Staffordshire, linked to Cheltenham, is also being closed.

Brian Moore, chairman of the GCHQ staff federation

which was formed after the Government banned trades union membership at the facility in 1984, said: "Last November, Sir John Adye (GCHQ director) made public for the first time that there were 6,500 employed at GCHQ. Now it's nearly down to 6,000 and in three years it will be 5,500. What worries us is that there are about four internal reviews going on, all of which could lead to more cuts."

A spokesman for GCHQ said the cuts, likely to affect employees over the age of 50, were part of an overall Government policy to scale down the civil service. "The position is that we have had to continue reducing the staff like everyone else," he confirmed that it was likely that the future of other outstations in the United Kingdom and abroad would have to be reviewed.

One of GCHQ's oldest facilities, in Hong Kong, is already

earmarked for closure because of the handover of the colony to China in 1997. Another key GCHQ listening centre is in Cyprus, but this facility which eavesdrops on communications traffic in the Middle East is unlikely to be affected.

The cutbacks at GCHQ and similar smaller-scale cuts at M15 and M16 have been forced on the intelligence and security services despite a recent report by Sir Michael Quinlan, the former permanent secretary at the Ministry of Defence, which is understood to have concluded that budgets and staffing levels at the three agencies were about right. Sir Michael had been asked by the Prime Minister to review the functions of the three agencies following the end of the Cold War.

The GCHQ spokesman said the voluntary redundancy scheme would be offered to all staff at home and abroad.

Iliescu to pardon British baby smugglers

By ANNE McELVOY

PRESIDENT Iliescu of Romania promised in London yesterday to free the British couple sentenced to 28 months in jail for attempting to smuggle a baby girl out of his country.

Speaking at Heathrow at the start of a three-day visit to Britain, he said he would personally pardon Adrian and Bernadette Mooney if the appeal court in Bucharest ruled against them at a hearing due next Wednesday.

Public opinion in his country was in favour of the Mooneys, he said, because of the "positive perceptions" of the British there. He described their transgression of Romania's adoption laws as

an act of goodwill. He was releasing them, he said, "because they are not fundamentally guilty. They already have an adopted [Romanian] daughter, and ... I think we have to take into account that, fundamentally, they have a good reason to adopt a Romanian child."

Despite Mr Iliescu's claims of "positive perceptions", however, many Romanian commentators have described as a national humiliation their country's status as a "baby-factory" for Western couples since Ceausescu's toppling in 1989.

Mr and Mrs Mooney, from Wokingham in Berkshire, were convicted of paying a Romanian gang £4,000 to secure Monica, the five-month-old daughter of teenage gypsy parents. They

were caught as they tried to cross the Hungarian border in July and are under house arrest pending their appeal.

Ron Chimes, Mr Mooney's stepfather, yesterday responded to Mr Iliescu's offer, by saying: "It's brilliant news."

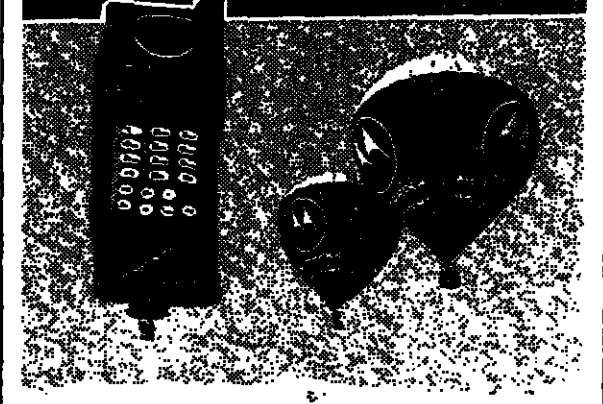
At his home in Woodley, Berkshire, he said: "The fact that the President said it really cements things, and we're hoping to have Adrian and Bernadette back within a fortnight. I have not spoken to them, but I've been told they're very happy. [But] there have been so many setbacks they will only really believe it when they actually get back to Britain."

British aid, page 10
Letters, page 19



Mrs Mooney: "she is not fundamentally guilty"

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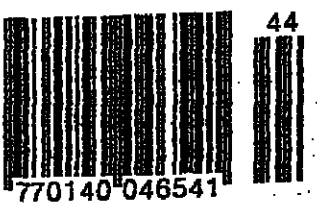
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Priggish Guardian finds strange bedfellows in a mad House

It was once a conviction to which your sketchwriter clung more fiercely than to the view that the Pope is a Catholic: that nothing, absolutely nothing, could ever be more sententious, pious or infuriatingly sanctimonious than a *Guardian* editorial. That was until yesterday, when I watched the Conservative Party impeaching the paper's editor. They achieved the impossible: Tory MPs were even more nauseatingly priggish than the newspaper they hate. Truly, the Tory

Party and *The Guardian* deserve each other. The debate triggered another insight. Every backbencher — Labour or Tory — who had spoken by the time I fled, had a faintly crackpot quality. One after the other they rose, tried to, or muttered from their seats of each, we thought: "Crikey, not another!" This must be the way to flush them out.

Tony Benn (Lab), Dr Robert Spink (C), Tam Dalyell (Lab), Terry Dicks (C), David Winnick (Lab), Jerry Hayes

(C), Dale Campbell-Savours (Lab), Bill Walker (C), Barry Sheerman (Lab) ... almost every one of these thinks that each of the others is slightly crackers, but not him.

Were there no rational speeches? There were two from House Leader Tony Newton and from his Labour Shadow, Ann Taylor. Newton spoke two sentences. Taylor was obliged by Commons custom to respond.

The MP moving the motion committing *The Guardian* editor to the Privileges



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Committee, David Wilshire (C, Spelthorne), was the first to speak but by no means the nuttiest in what proved a competitive field. Mr Wilshire is MP for part of Heathrow, half a runway short of an airport, and a crusader against Moonies. In 1990 he began an attack on an errant colleague, John

Browne, with the words "I rise with great trepidation. It is easy to sound sanctimonious or trite ... but I feel compelled to speak."

He began yesterday's speech by declaring himself reluctant to speak: "it is very easy to sound pompous, sanctimonious ..." But he felt he could not remain silent. "The

cry is being heard and we have to nip it in the bud," he told us in 1990. "My hon friend said he smelled a whiff of the search for a scapegoat."

Yesterday, mixing metaphor fell not to Wilshire, but to Roger Gale (C, Thanet N), who saw "a sizeable egg" on the faces of opponents — "rats leaving a sinking ship".

Turkeys, he thought, "were not voting for Christmas".

Had the turkeys left the sizeable egg on the rats' faces? Gale moved to the *Guardian*'s editor, Peter Preston,

and, face contorted by loathing, called him "a whore from hell". We need not go as far as Labour's George Galloway (also rationally challenged) who called Gale a demented hyena. Let's just say he gave every appearance of the balance of his mind having been temporarily disturbed.

Up in the Press Gallery, peering nervously down at the demented hyena, sat the whore from hell, Mr Preston. Comforted by the arrival of *The Guardian*'s cartoonist, Steve Bell, political editor

Michael White, sketchwriter Simon Hoggart, and investigative journalist David Henke (there is solidarity among whores from hell), Preston arrived chewing nicotine gum and fidgeting wildly.

As Gale's attack grew more ludicrous, Preston relaxed. A fair case — the Tory case — was wrecked by being pushed too far. Give these demented hyenas enough rope and a whiff of scapegoat and they'll get sizeable eggs all over their faces, sink their ship and vote for Christmas.

US steps up Irish aid in support of peace deal

By MARTIN FLETCHER AND NICHOLAS WATT

THE Clinton Administration unveiled a modest package of aid to support peace in Northern Ireland yesterday. It contained none of the extravagant sums of up to \$200 million mentioned in the euphoria after the IRA's August ceasefire.

For two years America will increase its contribution to the International Fund for Ireland from \$20 million a year to \$30 million. The fund, set up in 1986 to underpin the Anglo-Irish agreement, finances a broad range of economic and social development projects.

Politicians on both sides of the Irish border welcomed

ca's package is full of what we need: support, access and benefit of their experience."

John Hume, leader of the SDLP, who has wooed millions of pounds of American investment to Northern Ireland, said that the President's announcement highlighted his determination to help his economy to recover after 25 years of violence.

Given the size of the American deficit, the Administration has little spare cash to offer a West European country with an infrastructure almost as good as its own, so the package focuses primarily on ways to promote American trade and investment.

Ron Brown, the Commerce Secretary, will lead an American delegation to Britain's Investment Conference for Northern Ireland in Belfast next month. President Clinton will host a conference in Philadelphia in April, designed to show US companies that sustained peace is dramatically improving business opportunities in Northern Ireland and the Republic.

The White House said the United States wanted "to do its part to ensure that peace brings to Ireland new opportunities for job growth and economic prosperity, which in turn will help ensure that this new-found peace is stable and lasting". President Clinton told a Pittsburgh newspaper: "In the Middle East and in Northern Ireland we cannot let the people who have been pawns of war wait too long to see the benefits of peace."

The choice of Philadelphia for the investment conference and the announcement's timing were designed to help Pennsylvania's Democratic senator in Tuesday's congressional elections. Pittsburgh and Philadelphia have large Irish-American populations.

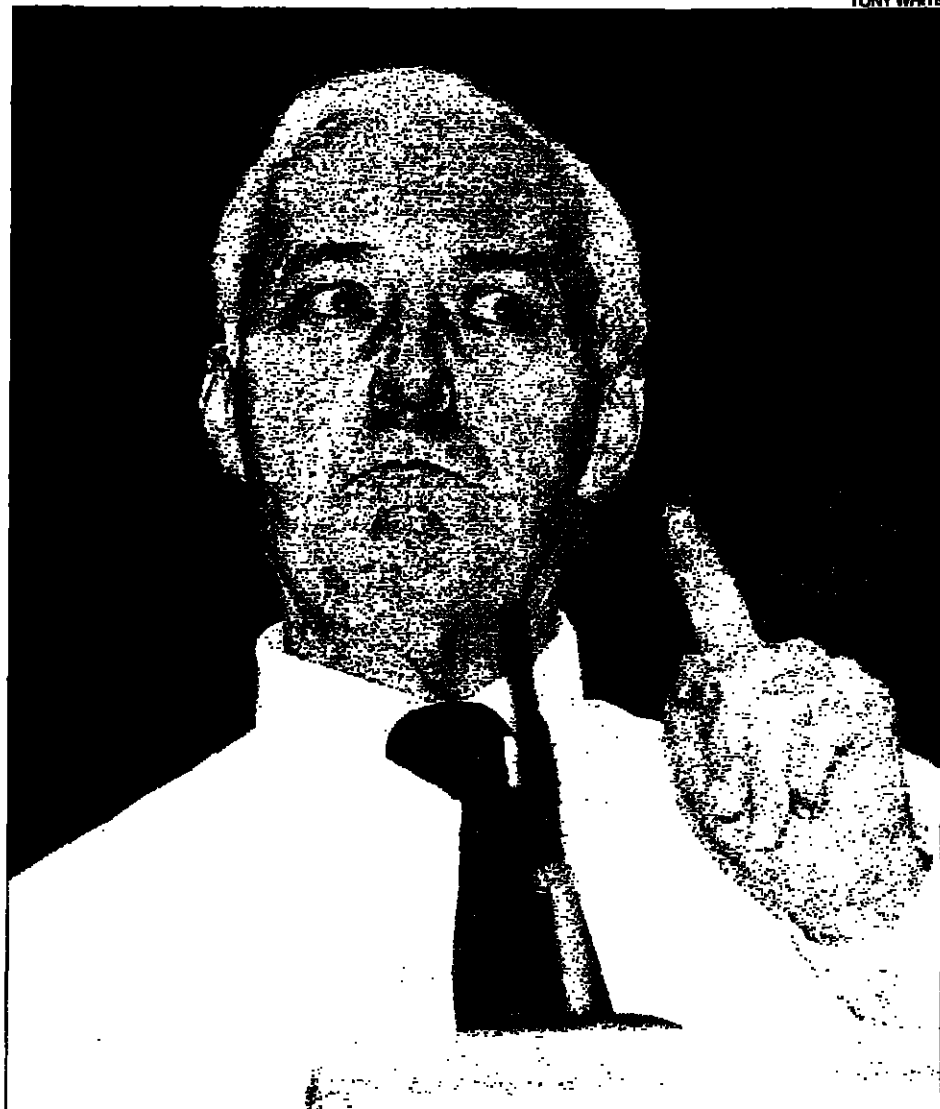
Leading article, page 19



Denton: "Package" is full of what we need

President Clinton's announcement, Albert Reynolds, the Irish Prime Minister, said the move showed that Northern Ireland was still at the top of the President's agenda. He said: "The best thing that anyone could do for Northern Ireland is to put jobs back into a society that has been devastated for the past 25 years. Many people haven't known what normal living is like."

Baroness Denton of Wakefield, economy minister at the Northern Ireland Office, rejected suggestions that the amount of aid was low. She told the BBC: "That is grossly unfair because I think Ameri-



Tony Benn addressing students at Central Hall, Westminster, yesterday

Tories want editor charged

Continued from page 1
verdict of a jury and punishment handed down by a judge."

Ann Taylor, the shadow Commons leader, backing the bid to refer the matter to the committee, said that for anyone other than an MP to use official newspaper was unacceptable as it was for anyone to forge a signature. "This is unacceptable behaviour for an editor of a newspaper, or indeed for anyone else. I do not therefore seek to defend the actions of the editor of *The Guardian*, nor to justify them," she said.

But she hoped the committee would also examine when and which MPs first knew about the forged fax, "and why, if MPs knew there had been a breach of this kind, they did not report it earlier to the Speaker". She added:



Preston: arriving at his office yesterday

"The fact that Mr Preston was wrong should not be used as a reason for ignoring the issues that Mr Preston was raising, and the evidence that has come to light."

Roger Gale, Conservative MP for Thanet North, said he

hoped criminal charges would follow against Mr Preston. He described *The Guardian* as the "gamekeeper of political morality" which had been found to have its pockets "stuffed with pheasants". He had written to the board of *The Guardian* to ask whether Mr Preston had their confidence.

Alex Carlile, for the Liberal Democrats, said Mr Preston had gone beyond the limits of legitimate journalism. "But the evidence which was confirmed as a result of the subterfuge raises matters which are in the public interest ... uncomfortable though MPs may find it, it is the fact that despite the subterfuge *The Guardian* has done the country a service."

Guardian debate, page 8
William Rees-Mogg, page 18

Howard increases penalties for using steroids

By JOHN GOODBODY
SPORTS NEWS
CORRESPONDENT

THE penalty for supplying anabolic steroids will be increased to five years' imprisonment and an unlimited fine, the Government announced yesterday, while stopping short of making possession a criminal offence.

Evidence suggests that the drugs can have physical and psychological side-effects and that an estimated 50,000 people in Britain now use them. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, said in a parliamentary answer that planned legislation would be directed against illicit suppliers and traffickers.

Under a proposed amendment to the 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act, it will become an offence to have "an intent to supply anabolic steroids and other similar drugs". Maximum penalties would be three months in prison and a £2,500 fine in a magistrates' court or five years and an unlimited fine in a Crown Court.

However, it is already an offence under the 1968 Medicines Act to sell anabolic steroids without a licence and the Government's action was seen last night as not going far enough. Mr Howard said: "We intend to keep under review the effectiveness of the new controls in tackling the supply and trafficking of anabolic steroids and, if necessary, we shall consider even tougher measures."

In 1988, the Government promised to make possession a criminal offence but it was dissuaded by the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, which argued that anabolic steroids were not used widely enough to form a social problem.

Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrats' spokesman on sport, has three times failed to gain government backing for his bill to outlaw the substances. He said: "At least we now have sanctions to exercise against those who peddle these drugs in many gymnasiums."

National Trust man's wife stabbed to death

The wife of a National Trust gardens adviser has been found stabbed to death at her Gloucestershire home. Marjorie Marshall, 44, was discovered in her £200,000 house in Tetbury. Police opened a murder inquiry and detectives were last night trying to contact her husband James and the couple's son John, 19, who lived in the family home.

One woman neighbour said: "I just can't believe it. She was so friendly and very pleasant, a very quiet lady, almost introverted. She didn't mix much with neighbours. Everyone is very shocked." She added that Mrs Marshall had been a great support to her husband James, who was a prominent member of the local community.

Jail searches 'ineffective'

Top security prisoners including IRA terrorists have so many possessions that security searches may be skipped or ineffective. Judge Tamm, the chief inspector of prisons, said in his annual report. He also gave a warning about the extent of drug-taking: more than half of inmates were thought to have regularly used drugs before going to prison.

Signal fault spotted

A potential rail disaster was avoided when a rail worker spotted a fault on new signalling equipment. Railtrack disclosed. In the incident last month on the line between Stratford and Bow in east London, a signal worker detected a fault while monitoring the control panel. It meant that trains in one sector were not protected from the rear.

Shepherd cuts bump

Plans to distribute millions of leaflets telling parents how to judge their children's progress at school have been scrapped by Gillian Shepherd as part of a blitz on government bumph. The Education Secretary said she was determined to reduce the mountain of paperwork sent to schools and parents by her department.

Last of the dinosaurs



An endangered reptile said to be the last of the dinosaurs is to be bred at Chester zoo, if a Maori chief likes what he sees. The *tuatara*, left, is said to have remained unchanged for 200 million years and has never been bred outside New Zealand. Chief Ben Hippolyte and his wife Tammy are delivering six to eight juveniles to the zoo today and will examine its suitability for the breeding project.

Tumour boy recovering

The British boy who underwent an operation in the United States to remove a tumour from his cervical spinal cord was reported yesterday to be "as well as can be expected". Ashley Fowle, four, of Gravesend, Kent, is in intensive care at the New York University Medical Centre, where he is awake and breathing with the aid of a tube.

Hird's husband dies

Jimmy Scott, Dame Thora Hird's husband, has died in his sleep at the age of 88 after suffering a massive stroke. "Scottie", who had been married to Dame Thora for 58 years, died at their home after falling ill last week. Dame Thora, 83, said she would continue working in his memory. A family funeral takes place in London tomorrow.

Calling card clean-up

One million cards advertising prostitutes were collected from telephone kiosks and railway stations in two months by Westminster City Council. Miles Young, council leader, said legislation was needed to control the problem. "We are not against prostitutes themselves but feel this form of advertising is unacceptable." Red-light area, page 7

CPS suspension criticised

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

LAWYERS yesterday condemned the Crown Prosecution Service's suspension of a senior prosecutor for writing an article for *The Times*.

Christopher Frazer, chairman of this year's Bar conference, said he was writing to Neil Addison, the suspended lawyer, expressing his support, while a QC said he had written to Barbara Mills, Director of Public Prosecutions,

Mr Frazer said: "I do not know the details of the Civil Service rules but I would have thought this action was absolutely disgraceful. Mr Addison made it plain he was writing in a personal capacity; he is a man of ideas and it is wrong he should be gagged from expressing his support, while a QC said he had written to Barbara Mills, Director of Public Prosecutions,

suspension showed the "extraordinary sensitivity" of the CPS to their "miserable organisation".

In his article in *The Times* on Tuesday Mr Addison, an elected member of the Bar Council, said that privatising the CPS could lead to barristers ceasing to prosecute in the Crown Court and the eventual demise of the criminal Bar.

After a 45-minute meeting with 14 rebels in the large ministerial conference room at the Commons, Mr Heseltine remained silent, preferring to reserve his response for his Cabinet colleagues today. His mood was said to have been low-key and very far from buoyant.

Most of the rebels, such as Hugh Dykes, MP for Harrow East, were from the left of the party. But the right-wing populist Sir Rhodes Boyson, MP for Brent North, and James

Post defeat

giving the Royal Mail more freedom from Treasury constraints but keeping it in the state sector "would condemn the business to slow decline" in the face of growing international competition.

Equally galling, it is the answer advanced as recently as Tuesday by Tony Blair, the Labour leader. However, with the prorogation of Parliament today, Mr Heseltine will be spared the indignity of having to explain his defeat in the Commons.

Peter Riddell, page 9
Leading article, page 19

Post defeat

Kawley, MP for Rugby and Kenilworth, also attended. The Cabinet faces unpalatable choices today. If it backs away from a fight, it will either have to fall back on Option One set out in the Green Paper published in the summer — greater commercial freedom for the Post Office within state ownership — or leave the industry as it is. The rebels want Option One.

Either course of action will be seen as a big U-Turn. The Green Paper warned that

giving the Royal Mail more freedom from Treasury constraints but keeping it in the state sector "would condemn the business to slow decline" in the face of growing international competition.

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Peter Riddell, page 9
Leading article, page 19

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'Overwrought melodrama. Overwritten pedantry. He has indeed created a monster'

Film critics savage Branagh as Prince woos Tinseltown

By GILES WHITTILL AND DALYA ALBERGE

KENNETH Branagh's "expensive ego" is likely to be bruised by the largely hostile reaction to his £35 million film, *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein*, which opened last night at a glittering premiere in Los Angeles and which will be the star attraction at the London Film Festival tomorrow.

Although Branagh's international reputation is strong enough to ensure that this is not his last multimillion-dollar picture deal, it is a severe blow after the hype of the past few months. The Columbia TriStar studio, it has been reported, was expecting the film to gross some \$100 million (£75 million) in the United States alone.

The Prince of Wales, however, had more reason than Branagh to be pleased with his reviews after both men attended the Los Angeles opening of the ill-received, gothic horror epic, *Star-laden limousines*, hundreds of yards of red

carpet and the customary horde of baying paparazzi ensured that the royal screening ranked with the most sparkling of Hollywood premieres, but Branagh was understandably nervous as he waited to introduce the Prince to members of his cast.

The film, made entirely in Britain, has already been slat-

ed by American critics normally inclined to give classically trained British talent the benefit of the doubt.

At the premiere, Branagh was heard to remark to his wife Emma Thompson, "I hope he likes it," as he moved down the red carpet to meet the royal motorcade.

But conspicuously absent was Robert De Niro, who plays Frankenstein's monster in the film and was scheduled to be introduced to the Prince in the most avidly awaited photo opportunity of the five-day royal visit to Los Angeles.

The Prince's aides rejected suggestions that his non-appearance was intended as a snub to the Prince, pointing out that the actor was busy filming in Las Vegas. De Niro may also have been wary of public reaction to his performance, which has been compared unfavourably with Boris Karloff's definitive 1932 portrayal of the monster, flat head, neck-bolts and all.

The Prince was instead introduced to Helena Bonham Carter, sporting an artfully heaped hair-style and period green velvet gown for the occasion, and the American actor Tom Hulce (best known for his role as Mozart in *Amadeus*), whose supporting roles have been praised as the best in the film.

However, for the organisers of the royal trip, Branagh's fortunes at the box office are less important than his decision to film in England, mainly at the Pinewood Studios. At a \$2,500-a-plate gala charity dinner tonight at the mansion of the television producer Aaron Spelling, the Prince will urge American film-makers to do likewise and seek more funding for films in the City of London.

Geoff Brown review, page 37



Bonham Carter and her artful hair

WHAT THE PRINCE SAID

□ *Variety*: "Branagh has indeed created a monster, but not the kind he originally intended. . . . This lavish, but overwrought, melodrama is in many ways less compelling than a mini-series."

□ *Entertainment News*: "A stylish romp, drowned in a sea of excess."

□ *The People*: described Helena Bonham Carter's acting as "two-dimensional, her expression veering between rapture and tantrum. Branagh was 'too busy serving his own expansive ego'."

□ *Trade Press*: praised the extravagant sets but weighed into the script for "overwritten pedantry." Branagh's performance was "too feverish for its own good."

□ *Film 94*: Barry Norman said: "This is not your run-of-the-mill monster movie. It aspires to something much more and on the whole succeeds admirably." But De Niro was "neither touching enough nor, surprisingly, if you remember him in *Cape Fear*, frightening enough."

□ *Evening Standard*: Alexander Walker said: "Branagh's new film adds up to considerably less than the parts."

□ *The Times*: Geoff Brown writes today: "The final scenes could not be more flamboyant. But, instead of creating a grand finale, they only give signs that a wayward movie is spluttering to a close."



Kenneth Branagh and the Prince of Wales: "I hope he likes it," the actor was heard to mutter to his wife

Film Festival opens without Dorrell

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE British film industry is smarting after being shunned twice by Stephen Dorrell, the Heritage Secretary. First, he declined the invitation to open the London Film Festival, which opens tomorrow and has a menu of 180 films to show in 17 days.

Now he has pulled out of a commitment to give a keynote speech on the Government's policy to a gathering of the industry's leading members.

The speech, to which Mr Dorrell committed himself three months ago, was eagerly awaited as it would have been the first time he has spoken on the subject. The official reason for cancelling was said to be a diary clash. But one source said: "He's got cold feet."

The Screen International-AIM conference on issues facing film-makers, cinemas and distributors, to be held in Birmingham next Wednesday, will now be addressed by Chris Smith, the Shadow Heritage Secretary. Mr Smith said: "Given that the Government's record on the film industry has not been overwhelmingly great, they need a rather more serious look at it. I'm surprised that the Secretary of State responsible for government policy towards the film industry should not have been leaping at the opportunity to set out his thinking."

Mr Dorrell said yesterday that he sympathised with his former cellmate. "It was a mind-boggling experience. Now we are back, no one seems to want to know or help. I understand what Paul is suffering."

Mr Wainwright, 43, who was arrested as he cycled across the Iraqi border, added: "I have terrible flashbacks. I've had no counselling or help since I was freed and sometimes something just makes me want to lash out."

He has been unemployed since his release and has been told by the Foreign Office that he is ineligible for compensation.

Mr Ride's father Brian said last night that his son needed treatment, not punishment. "I really hope he does not get locked up again. God knows what effect that would have on him."



De Niro beats the critics to Branagh's throat

Death trial opens for third time

By CATHERINE MILTON

THE trial of two men accused of hiring a Maori woman to assassinate a business associate opened for the third time at the Old Bailey yesterday.

Paul Tibbs, 34, and Deith Bridges, 21, deny conspiring to murder Graeme Woodhatch in May 1992 by hiring Te Rangimaria Ngarimu to shoot him at close range in a hospital where he was recovering from a haemorrhoids operation. However, the third jury to be sworn in for the case heard both men admit conspiracy to pervert the course of justice by helping to dispose of the murder weapon.

Two previous juries had been discharged, the first because Ngarimu returned unexpectedly from New Zealand and admitted murder. She is awaiting sentence pending the outcome of this case. The trial continues.

Bridgewater case ban challenged

By LUCY BERRINGTON

THE Home Office may hold "devastating" evidence throwing doubt on the convictions of the so-called Bridgewater Four and should be forced to reveal why a plea to reopen the case was rejected, the High Court was told yesterday.

Edward Fitzgerald, appearing for the convicted men, said the refusal to make available a report by Dr Eric Shepherd, a forensic psychiatrist, which was commissioned by the Home Office, was "manifestly unfair".

Michael Hickey, 32, Vincent Hickey, 40, and Jim Robinson, 60, were convicted in 1978 of murdering the newspaper boy Carl Bridgewater, 23, at Yew Tree Farm, Stourbridge, West Midlands. Patrick Molloy, who died in jail, was found guilty of manslaughter.

Opening a judicial review into the case, Mr Fitzgerald said the Home Office had

stymied the men's defence by not disclosing reasons for refusing to reopen the case.

Yesterday's hearing came a day after the publication of a leaked internal document suggesting that the Home Office privately conceded more than three years ago that a confession by Molloy was unreliable. Mr Fitzgerald said there could be still more "equally devastating evidence" in the possession of the Home Secretary unknown to the defence.

Unless the court established the principle that the minister must disclose such evidence, "injustice in this case is likely to be repeated over again".

Mr Fitzgerald is seeking disclosure of material from a 1991-92 inquiry by Merseyside Police on which Kenneth Clarke, then Home Secretary, based his objection to an application to appeal in February 1993. The hearing continues.

Youth freed after attack on boy, 8

By A STAFF REPORTER

A BOY aged 13 who battered an eight-year-old unconscious with a brick then left him under a bush on an allotment was freed by a court yesterday because he was too young to be given custody.

Nottingham magistrates imposed a two-year supervision order on the youth — the limit of their sentencing powers — after he admitted causing grievous bodily harm. Ian Cunningham, for the prosecution, said the victim had gone out to play at 4pm and was found six hours later by a policeman, lying in a pool of blood in his jeans and socks.

Mr Cunningham said a woman answered a knock on her back door and found the attacker "very distressed and crying". He first said had just killed someone, then claimed a man had hit the boy.

Cricketer's name is mud in PR world

By ALAN HAMILTON

NO BOUQUETS today for Mike Atherton. Barclays Bank, the royal family or the actress Gillian Telford. They have been named as the year's worst sufferers from foot-in-mouth disease.

In the world of spin doctoring and image massaging, screwing up your public profile is a cardinal sin. A public relations consultancy, the Fitzherbert Partnership, which produces an annual report on the outstanding disasters of the trade, names the above as Britain's clumsiest communicators of 1994.

The high street banks take the wooden spoon for their insensitive announcements of enormous profits — nearly £1 billion for the half-year in the case of Barclays — at a time when they were laying staff off by the thousand and complaints to the Banking Ombudsman reached a record level, the report says. Mike Atherton is named as the year's Mr Clumsy for his failure to resign the England cricket captaincy. Such comments as "I am not a cheat" and "I have never used artificial substances" simply did not square with

the fact that he received two fines, it says.

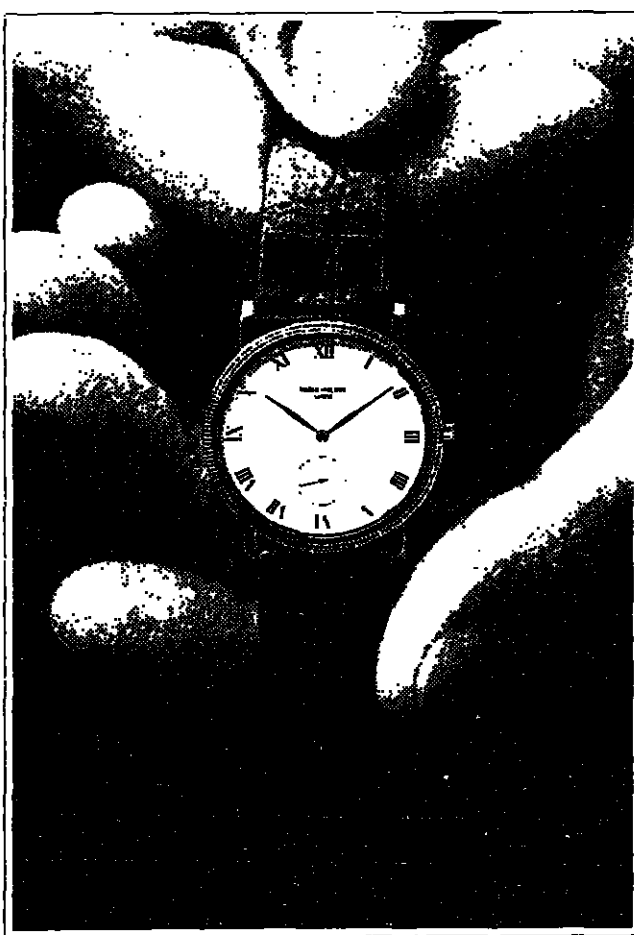
Slipping to third place is the royal family. "With phone pest allegations, talk of adultery on all fronts, and Charles and Diana both managing to get themselves photographed naked while on holiday, stories about the royals have reached a state of high farce."

Gillian Telford, star of *EastEnders* and of a parked Range Rover, is fourth for bringing a libel action 19 months after her alleged activities with her partner on the grass verge of the A1.



Atherton: named as Mr Clumsy of 1994

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SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



Shining stars
HIGH-GLOSS AND HOW
TO WEAR IT

IN THE
MAGAZINE

HOW TO WIN 10,000
LOTTERY TICKETS

IN
WEEKEND

CSA staff face hate calls and booby trapped mail

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

LETTERS booby trapped with razor blades, excrement and hypodermic syringes, abusive telephone calls and murder threats have so demoralised staff at the Child Support Agency's region office in the Midlands that mail goes unanswered for months and two out of every three staff are looking for another job.

The findings of a Civil and Public Service Association (CPSA) survey emerged as the Commons Social Security Select Committee urged the Government to adopt a series of proposed reforms to the agency's operations. These included giving special treatment to fathers who had made clean-break settlements with their former partners before the agency was founded.

The committee's report makes more than 20 recommendations, but ministers are likely to reject any demands that require legislation. A split among committee members led to several proposals being dropped, including one for an appeal system.

The CPSA survey of the agency's office in Dudley, West Midlands, showed that its staff were permanently worried about being attacked and received abusive telephone calls every day, according to Jim Hanson, the CPSA's officer for the agency. "It is no wonder they are not performing as well as they should

when they have all that to put up with."

The 700 staff at Dudley, who deal with an area from west London to Manchester, tended to receive a higher proportion of abusive calls and mail than poorer regions such as Merseyside and Newcastle. "People in the more prosperous areas are not used to dealing with social security inquiries and probably tend to react more strongly," Mr Hanson said.

The survey of the CPSA's 350 members at Dudley found

that 67 per cent were so demoralised that they were looking for other jobs. Ninety per cent said they were not happy with the way the agency was going and 56 per cent admitted that they dropped complicated cases to meet targets.

Paul Duxley, co-ordinator of the Midlands branch of the national Network Against the CSA, said that mail to the agency could go unanswered for more than a year. "We have even heard stories that staff hide letters they don't

want to deal with in the false ceiling of the ladies' loo or down the lift shaft."

Such stories are denied by the agency, but it admits that the pressures and difficulties under which staff have been working have affected their performance. "We are seeking to improve morale and confidence," a spokesman said.

Pat Heron, who looks after agency staff in the National Union of Civil and Public Servants, said: "The whole operation is run on a crisis management basis. The result is that everything is made a priority, so nothing can be."

"Our members have to work under tremendous pressure against the constant background of abuse from members of the public. They get some really horrible, distressing telephone calls."

Sometimes people ring and say they are going to commit suicide because of what the agency has done to them. It is all terribly difficult and upsetting."

She said that yesterday's proposed reforms might make matters worse. "Petty little reforms tend to make the system much more complicated and they do not help to get it working more efficiently. They will certainly not make much difference to the people in the deepest poverty and will increase the burden on our members."

REFORMS URGED TO SAVE AGENCY

The proposals of the Commons Social Security Select Committee to reform the workings of the Child Support Agency were launched at Westminster yesterday.

The committee's report was agreed unanimously, although opposition from Tory MPs led to the dropping of proposals for an appeal system and for allowing parents to keep more of their maintenance payments if they also receive benefits. The final report includes the following proposals:

□ Changes to the rigid financial formula to take into account men's ability to pay. This would include their costs of travel to work, housing costs, those of their new partner, and whether they are step-parents. This would help to prevent second families from being disadvantaged.

□ Adjustments to the way maintenance is assessed to prevent the build-up of huge arrears.

□ Changes to how earnings are calculated, making it harder for the self-employed to dodge maintenance demands.

□ More flexibility in the financial formula to allow for any changes in people's circumstances.

□ Lone parents on income support to be allowed to continue receiving that benefit for six months if the absent parent refuses to pay maintenance.



Brian Mawhinney tests a former Post Office van that failed the spot check at Marble Arch yesterday

Fume checks start in puff of smoke

By ANJANA AHUJA

A LONDON landmark was transformed into an impromptu garage yesterday for the launch of a government crackdown on vehicle pollution.

Cars, lorries, taxis and a sightseeing bus were among vehicles waved underneath Marble Arch for emission checks by Department of Transport inspectors. Similar spot checks will be made across Britain over the next six weeks.

Petrol and diesel vehicles, which

have different regulations, were tested separately. A thin tube was inserted into the exhaust pipe to test the proportions of different gases emitted as the engine ticks over. Of 60 petrol tests, 12 vehicles failed the checks. Diesel tests showed one in three vehicles gave off illegal emissions.

Drivers whose vehicles fail the tests are given ten days to fix the fault and have a new MOT done or face a fine of up to £5,000. However, in extreme cases drivers can face an immediate ban.

Dr Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, said: "I am anxious to see not theoretical expectations but the practical realities. I hope these initiatives will cause people to stop and consider taking some remedial action now."

Tim Brown, of the National Society for Clean Air, said: "We estimate there are up to five million vehicles on the road at any time that would fail the emissions tests, so there is a long way to go."

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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN
BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

I am running a "refresher" series on Thursdays for the next few weeks aimed at reminding players of the principles they don't like to admit they have forgotten.

Opening the bidding on balanced hands

What would you open on each of the following two hands: (a) as dealer, love-all, and (b) third in hand, vulnerable, after two passes?

ONE
♠A42
♥1054
♦KQ3
♣Q84

TWO
♠KQJ3
♥2542
♦K542
♣QJ4

Most people know that they should always open the bidding when they hold 13 points, and sometimes when they have 12. Can you see why it is wrong to pass with 13 points? It is because you might miss a game. You will find that a combined partnership holding of 25 or 26 points is enough to give a reasonable play for nine tricks in no-trumps, so if you and your partner each pass on 13 points you have missed a good chance of making 3NT.

What about 12 points? It is not obligatory to open on 12, because if your partner also passes on 12 you will not have enough to make a game. However, most good players do open on balanced 12-point hands, particularly if they play the "Weak No-Trump". The requirement for a weak 1NT is a balanced hand with 12-14 points. On marginal hands two other factors must be considered: i) vulnerability; ii) intermediate cards (tens, nines, eights).

Hand One: open 1NT as dealer, but pass vulnerable in third position — your side cannot have a game, and the lack of intermediate cards means that you have poor trick-taking potential.

Hand Two: open 1NT as dealer, but One Spade after two passes. An important point about third position is that you will not have to bid again after your One Spade opening.

THE TIMES Lottery Prize Draw

21,000 National Lottery tickets to be won

Tickets for the National Lottery go on sale on Monday November 14, and with a top prize of £2m expected when the first draw takes place on Saturday November 19, lottery fever is starting to grip the nation. The Times, in association with The Sunday Times, is offering readers an additional chance to become overnight millionaires with our great lottery tickets prize draw.

Week four of our competition offers you the chance to win up to 10,000 lottery tickets to be purchased on your behalf. Each has a one in 54 chance of winning a prize.

Our teams of ticket buyers will purchase 21,000 official lottery tickets on behalf of our winning readers with randomly generated numbers for entry into the November 19 prize draw.

Continuing this week, we are publishing the last of 24 tokens. Collect 20 tokens and you can enter our prize draw twice. Collect all 24 from The Times and the 16 tokens appearing in The Sunday Times and you can enter the draw four times.

FIRST PRIZE 10,000 £1 tickets, second prize 2,000 £1 tickets, third prize 1,000 £1 tickets

Ten fourth prizes of 100 £1 tickets, 100 fifth prizes of 20 £1 tickets, 500 runners-up prizes of 10 £1 tickets

HOW TO WIN

To enter the prize draw, simply collect 10 lottery tokens from The Times and The Sunday Times. The first token was printed in The Times on October 8 and further tokens are appearing each day this week in The Times and have appeared in The Sunday Times, giving you a total of 40 tokens and enabling you to make four individual entries in our 21,000 lottery tickets prize draw. When you have collected 10 tokens send them on the form below or save all 40 tokens and send them with the bonus entry form, which will appear on November 5.

No purchase is necessary. Full terms and conditions will appear periodically in The Times.

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Takeaways
and food
poisoning to
record levels

TOGETHER
3,000
APART

Takeaways send food poisoning to record levels

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

FOOD poisoning is at its highest level since records began and the increase in cases is accelerating. The latest figures show 68,000 cases of food poisoning so far in 1994. The total is likely to reach 80,000 by the end of the year compared with 69,000 for 1993 and 63,000 for 1992.

The number of cases has risen fivefold over the past decade and is at the highest level since records began in 1949. An increase in eating out, takeaways and fast food is thought to be responsible, as well as a greater readiness by the public to report food poisoning to their GP.

"People used to suffer a bout of diarrhoea with quiet stoicism, a warm drink and an early night, but now they call the doctor and demand identification of the bug," a spokeswoman for the Institute of Environmental Health Officers said.

Dr Verner Wheelock, an independent food safety con-

sultant, said the increasing trend to eat away from home was putting pressure on the catering industry. "Most food manufacturers place a very high priority on food hygiene, but you contrast that with what goes on in catering. Up and down the country, week in and week out, environmental health officers are bringing prosecutions."

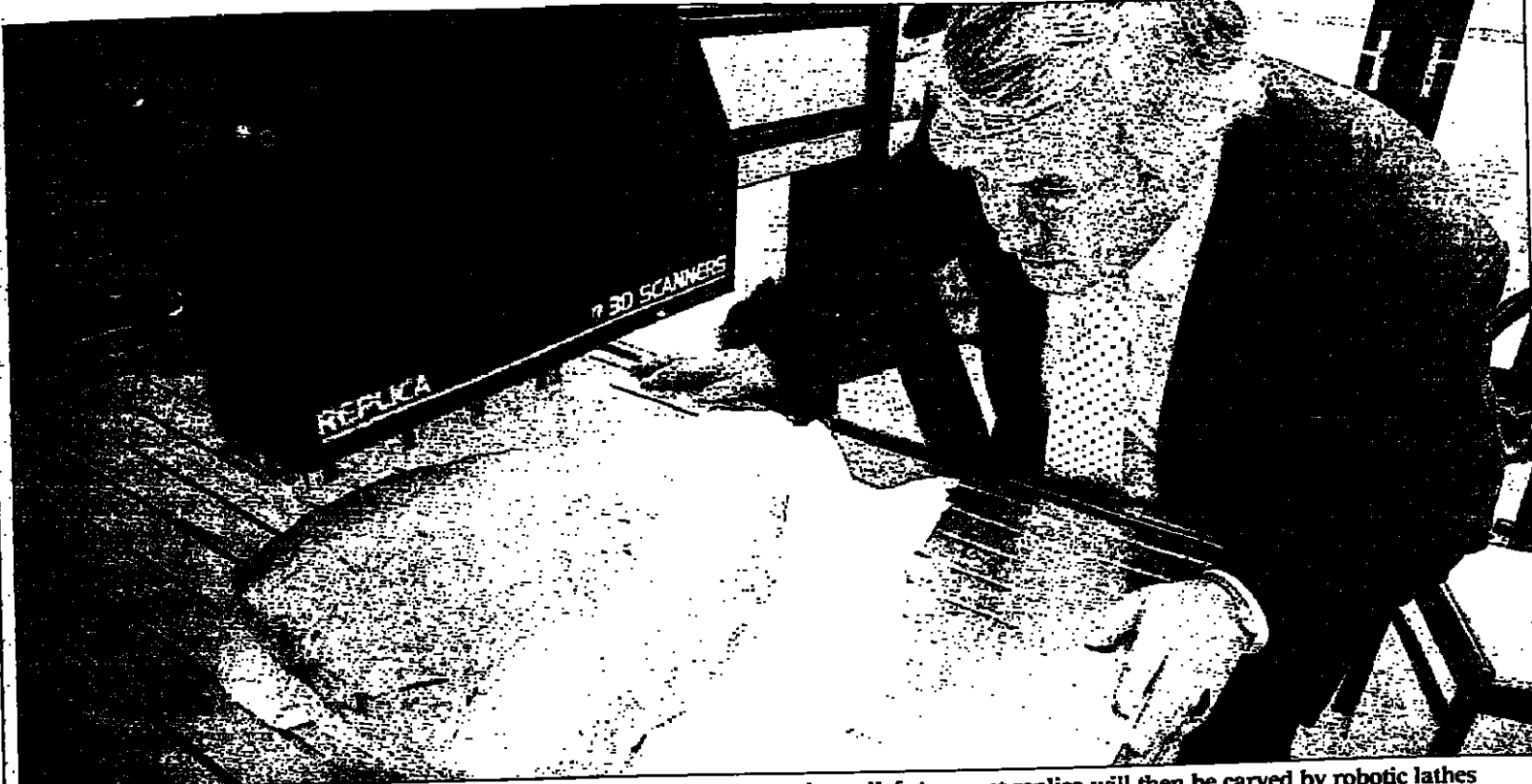
"Caterers can apply the basic principles, such as taking a chicken out of the freezer to thaw it before it is cooked, but the conditions under which it is thawed are critical. One in four raw chickens is infected with salmonella and if it has a lump of ice in the middle when it comes to be cooked it is unlikely that they will be knocked out."

In 1992, environmental health officers issued 156,000 written warnings to food establishments and brought prosecutions in 2,253 cases, of which 1,760 led to convictions. More than 700 outlets were closed and in 6,500 cases food was seized or surrendered.

David Statham, chairman of the institute's food and general health committee, said most food poisoning was the result of ignorance. "There is a growing awareness in the catering trade of the need to raise standards, but it employs large numbers of casual staff who don't know the right way to do things."

"We all lead a faster lifestyle in which food is cooked quickly and may then be kept warm — conditions we associate with food poisoning."

Regulations introduced under the Food Safety Act 1990 to require food handlers to undergo training were never implemented. However, regulations to be introduced in September 1995, in response to an EC directive, will require that staff are trained.



John Larson watches as a laser scanner records details of the Egyptian relief. An exact replica will then be carved by robotic lathes

Lasers and robots reproduce glories of ancient Egypt

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

AN IDENTICAL copy of an ancient Egyptian relief is being sculpted without a human hand touching either the original or the replica. The copy will be returned to a 1,500BC temple in the Valley of the Kings from where the original was removed.

The Merseyside National Museums and Galleries is pioneering the use of 3D laser scanners to record the details on stone sculptures with a precision that allows robotic lathes to read the data and reproduce them exactly

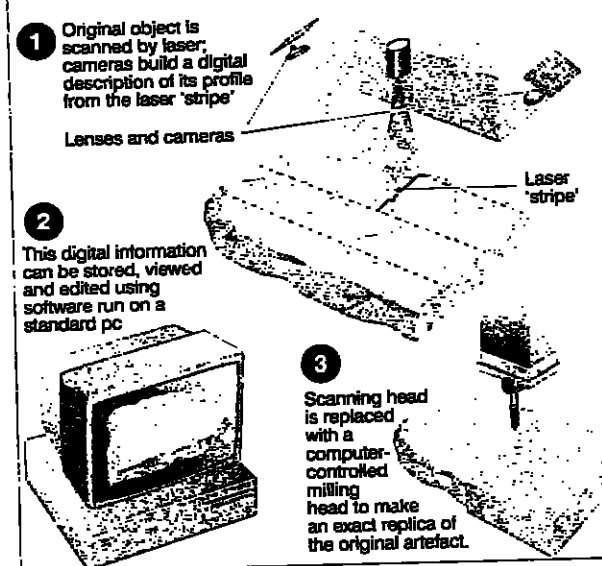
on stone blocks. The technique has wide implications for antiquities and archaeology. It could mean, for example, that the Elgin Marbles at the British Museum, which the Greeks have fought so hard to reclaim, could once again be displayed on the Parthenon. If they were damaged, they could be replaced using information recorded on computer.

John Larson, head of inorganic conservation on Merseyside, developed the technique after becoming

concerned that original works were being damaged by moulds used in the casting process. The Egyptian government, which is restoring the Temple of Queen Hatchepsut, requested a copy of the ancient sculpture depicting Pharaoh Thutmose I.

However, Mr Larson said there was a potential problem of the technique being used by forgers. The laser scanners can be bought for about £30,000, a figure easily recovered on the art market.

MAKING REPLICAS USING A 3D SCANNER



School heads clash with careers advisers

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

TEACHERS and careers advisers clashed yesterday over allegations that state schools are trying to stop older pupils transferring to colleges.

The dispute comes amid furious competition between schools and further education and sixth-form colleges for students aged 16 and 17 who bring

funding of £2,500-a-head. Speaking at the launch of a programme to improve the careers service, Gillian Shepherd, the Education Secretary, rejected calls for independent advisers to be given a legal right to enter schools. She said that careers advice should be available to 11-year-olds.

Her intervention followed complaints that some head teachers were denying pupils access to impartial

guidance. Mike Eastwood, representing the UK Heads of Careers Services Association, said some schools were stopping visits by outside advisers for fear of losing the money that follows pupils into their sixth-form.

More than half the students interviewed in a study involving 45 schools by the Leeds College of Technology last month said they had received no information about the college. More

than 100 local authorities have submitted bids for about £4 million allocated by the Education Department to train teachers to become careers advisers.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said some members complained that advice from the careers service was not necessarily "objective and sound".

NEWS IN BRIEF

Husband finds wife dead in car

A husband who set off to search for his wife, thinking that her car had broken down, found her dead in a crash.

Neil Gair was walking along the route he thought his wife Amanda, 25, had taken when he discovered her car, which had crashed head-on into a coach at Farnborough, Hampshire. She was certified dead at the scene. Her dog was rescued unhurt.

Burglary couple

The elderly couple who collapsed after discovering that their home had been burgled died from natural causes, post-mortem examinations showed. Police believe shock may have contributed to the deaths of Philip Essery, 83, and his wife Maud, 85, from Birmingham. Both had been suffering from heart disease.

Kirk lottery

The Church of Scotland has discovered that its investment fund holds shares worth about £1.4 million in Cadbury-Schweppes, which backs the National Lottery. The Church will decide at its general assembly in January whether to sever links with the company.

Wise charged

The Chelsea and England footballer Dennis Wise was charged yesterday with causing criminal damage to a taxi and assaulting the driver. He is due to appear at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court in London on November 29.

Smash hit

Paul McCartney and his chauffeur, John Hamell, escaped unhurt when their Mercedes was involved in a crash with a lorry near Peasmarsh, East Sussex. The lorry driver was also unhurt.

Rave on

Radio 1 is to play nine hours of dance music on Saturday nights from November 19 in an attempt to win back listeners. It will also replace Danny Baker's Sunday show with a "golden oldies" programme.

HAVE

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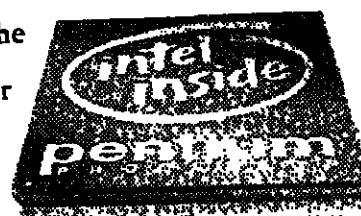
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Search for Barbican deputy throws doubt on future of chief

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

AN ANNOUNCEMENT that the Barbican Centre was seeking a deputy to be groomed for the post of managing director prompted speculation yesterday that Baroness O'Cathain was being eased out of her post as managing director.

The news comes days after *The Times* reported disillusionment with the management of the Barbican Centre, which hosts the Royal Shakespeare Company and London Symphony Orchestra as its two main arts residents. The atmosphere, it was reported, was "poisonous", staff fearful and demoralised and policies viewed as lacking vision and cultural awareness. Lady O'Cathain's methods were described by administrators as intolerant and arrogant.

The question yesterday was how the Corporation of London's statement about a search for a deputy should be interpreted. One source asked: "How tenable can her position be after this? Would anyone want to take that job while she's still there?"

Others were also reading between the lines of statements released by the LSO and RSC over looking forward to working with the new deputy. "There are no ringing endorsements in their statements on what a fine job she's done," one source observed. "This is a face-saving formula. Just a fudge. It's saying she's going — but not yet."

Geoffrey Lawson, chairman of the Barbican Centre committee, said: "It's not an attempt to ease her out. It's a pragmatic understanding that there's got to be an adjustment to the steering of the Barbican."

— to strengthen our arts programme. Datta's [Lady O'Cathain's] contract is finite. It expires in three years' time. She has no intention of spending the rest of her life in the Barbican. When the right person is in place, if at all, she wishes to leave earlier than her contract."

There are problems too at English National Opera, where technical staff at the Coliseum are expected to vote in favour of strike action, according to Bectu, the broadcast and entertainment technicians' union. The result of a ballot over attempts to reduce the workforce and total earnings will be known on November 22. If the technical staff vote in favour of strike action, the Coliseum's Christmas season featuring the Royal Ballet will be affected.

Dennis Marks, ENO's general director, said: "We have brought forward proposals which are as fair and as sensitive as possible given the company's grave financial position... Despite a very successful start to the new season with audiences 39 per cent up on the end of last season, ENO must find financial savings to secure its future and adopt working practices which are fair, efficient and productive."

He said the number of proposed redundancies had been reduced from 26 to 17.



Dame Vera Lynn with Craig Allsopp in London yesterday after they and nine others became Leeds/Radar People of the Year. Dame Vera was nominated for services to entertainment and her part in commemorating D-Day, and Mr Allsopp, 18, for going to the rescue of a man drowning in the river Tone at Taunton

War veterans rush to claim pensions

By JOHN YOUNG

THE Royal British Legion yesterday disclosed a tenfold increase in claims for war disability pensions from veterans and widows since it launched an "awareness campaign" two weeks ago.

The number of inquiries received by the War Pensions Agency in Blackpool, which was established by the Department of Social Security last April, has risen from an average of 427 a week before October 24 to 4,641. The number of claimants applying through the legion had risen from 364 to 882.

Legion officials said they had long been convinced that there were tens of

thousands of men and women who had suffered from physical or mental impairment as a result of their wartime experiences but who for 50 years or more had never submitted a claim. With the approach of Remembrance Sunday on November 13 and next year's fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War, they had decided to make an all-out effort to make veterans aware of their rights.

Anyone with a disability incurred or made worse as a result of their service in the armed forces was entitled to claim a war pension, the legion said. There were

no time limits for making a claim. The condition did not have to be physical.

If a claim was successful, the agency would award a lump-sum gratuity if disablement was assessed at less than 20 per cent and a monthly pension if assessed at more. Tom House, of the legion's pensions department, said:

"There was sadly nothing to be done for those who had failed to claim during the past 50 years, he added. But even now an extra, say, £20 a week for someone struggling on a state pension could make a world of difference. "I am astonished by the response," he said.

Insurance cover for churches 'too costly'

By JOHN YOUNG

CHURCH authorities rejected as unrealistic a call made yesterday by English Heritage for historic churches to be fully insured against the growing possibility of disaster.

A leaflet published by English Heritage and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors gives as examples terrorist action in 1992 and 1993 in the City of London that severely damaged St Ethelburga and St Helen, Bishopsgate. The gutting by fire of St Mary, Barnes, southwest London, in 1978 and the collapse of the spire of St John, Hatherleigh, north Devon, in 1991 were also cited.

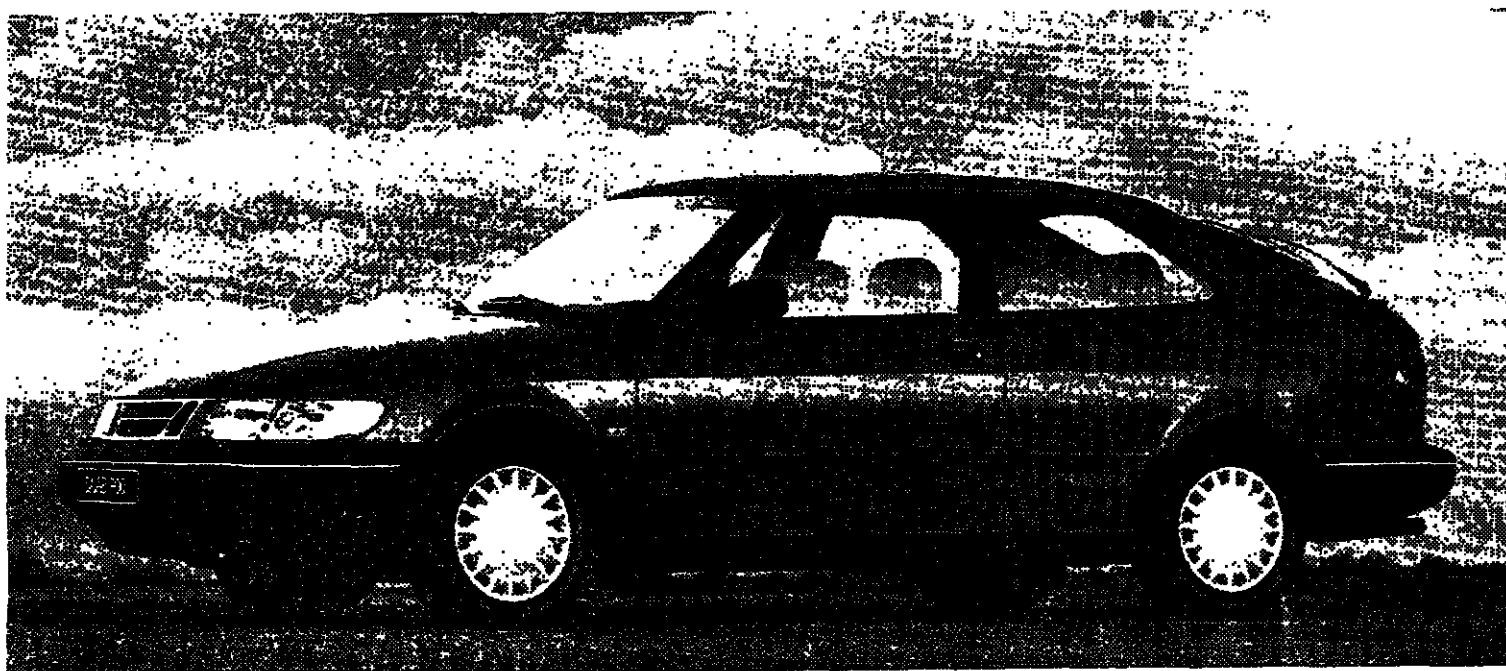
Parishes were urged to "take suitable and appropriate insurance cover in the light of increasing catastrophes". But the Church of England and its principal insurers said that for many parishes full coverage was financially impossible.

Some cases were caused by problems with electrical services "but a distressingly high percentage have been the result of arson", the leaflet says. There had been many unfortunate cases where under-estimate of the cost of rebuilding had created major problems.

The Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, in Gloucester, which insures 97 per cent of Anglican churches in Britain, said some parishes could simply not afford to insure everything for its true worth. That particularly applied to valuable contents of churches.



Lady O'Cathain: "not an attempt to ease her out"



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KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

October explosion

The extraordinary explosion of international-standard chess tournaments in Britain during October has reached a conclusion with the results from the Richmond International: Klaus Berg and Demetrios Agnos 6.5, Richard Bates 6, Aaron Summerscale 5.5, Hennig and Rowson 4.5, Hinks-Edwards and Wall 3.5, Dinstuhl 3, McShane 1.5.

Furthermore, the Vera Menchik Memorial tournament in Maidstone, Kent, has been won by Jonathan Levitt with 6 points from 9 games.

US championship

Boris Gulko has won the US championship, scoring 9.5 points out of 13, ahead of a field that included such prominent grandmasters as Yasser Seirawan, Joel Benjamin and Larry Christiansen.

White: Kreiman

Black: Gulko

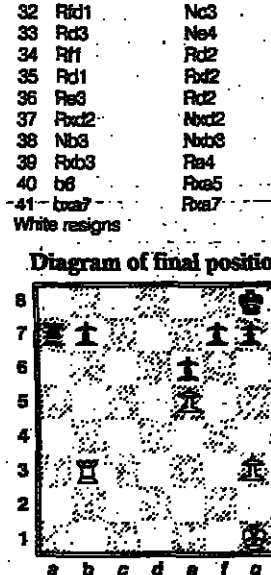
US championship, Key West, October 1994

Caro-Kann Defence

1 e4	c6
2 d4	d5
3 e5	dxe5
4 Nf3	e6
5 Be2	c5
6 O-O	Ne7
7 dxc5	Nxc5
8 c3	Bxc5
9 b4	Bb6
10 b5	Ne7
11 Nbd2	Nd7
12 c4	O-O
13 Bb2	Nc5
14 Bb4	Rc8
15 a4	Nd3
16 Bxb6	Oxb6
17 cxd5	Nxd5
18 Nc4	Rxc4
19 Bxc3	Bxc3
20 Qxc3	Rc3
21 Qb1	h6
22 a5	Qc5
23 Nd2	Qd4
24 Nf3	Qd4
25 Nd2	Rc2
26 Qe1	Rc2
27 Nf3	

White resigns

Diagram of final position



Winning move, page 46

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Insurance cover for churches too costly

Birmingham considers approving red-light area

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

COUNCILLORS in Birmingham will take the first step today towards managing and controlling prostitution in the city. Ideas under review include "zones of tolerance" on industrial estates where women can ply their trade without fear of arrest, licensed brothels and saunas, and safe houses for those wanting to "ave the profession".

A team of 20 staff from every council department is putting together plans to control the 500 to 2,000 prostitutes who work in the city. The team is led by Terry Potter, principal community affairs officer.

Pavement patrols organised since the summer by mosques in the Balsall Heath red-light district have succeeded merely in driving street prostitutes and kerb crawlers into adjacent districts.

Mr Potter said: "These residents can only patrol a small area and there has been a slow ripple effect as the girls move out, which means prostitution has become somebody else's problem."

The council's planning committee meets today to agree the framework for an action plan in Balsall Heath and adjacent areas. A working party, including residents, will draw up recommendations for the council.

"We realise that prostitution has been around a lot longer than any of us and that there is no way of stopping it. We are not taking a moral standpoint on whether prostitution is right or wrong. We simply take the view that if you try to stamp it out you merely displace it somewhere else, so you have to find ways to manage it," Mr Potter said.

Using an industrial estate as a "zone of tolerance" would mean there were no residents to be bothered by what was going on. At the same time police would have to tackle prostitution everywhere else in the city to ensure it was limited to the designated zone. Support services including health and sex education counsellors would be provided nearby. "We could not simply set up a red-light sleaze area," Mr Potter said.

Licensed saunas and "promotels" in business areas might also be approved but be strictly controlled by the council. "They are a lot more hidden and this means they do not provoke the same kind of social disruption that street prostitutes cause," he said.

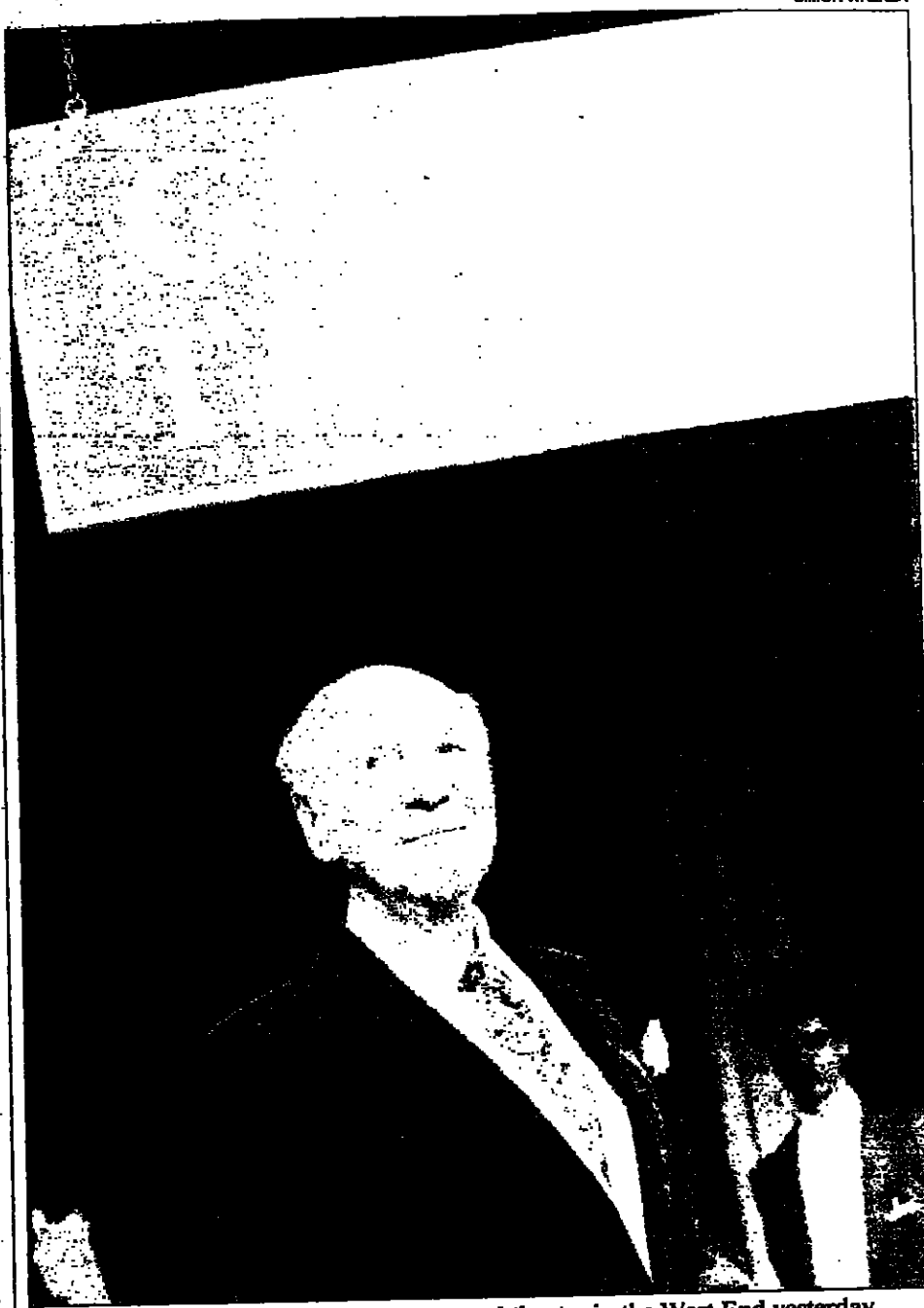
Safe houses where women could be protected from violent pimps if they decided to give up prostitution would also be needed as a "staging post" while they learnt a trade.

Mr Potter said: "With the amount of money they can earn, training them to be a clerk or typist is not going to lure them out. We have to be more imaginative."

Credit card prostitutes

A man acted as factor to prostitutes by providing them with credit card imprint machines and earned thousands of pounds from them, Southwark Crown Court was told yesterday.

Justin Golding, 44, has pleaded guilty to four counts of living off immoral earnings, in what is believed to be the first case of its kind in Britain. The court was told that he provided prostitutes with a machine with a blank plate where traders' details are normally embossed. The trial continues.



Sir John Gielgud outside the renamed theatre in the West End yesterday

Sir John takes the limelight at theatre

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE Globe Theatre in the West End of London was renamed the Gielgud Theatre yesterday in honour of the actor knight's 90th birthday.

Sir John admitted after the renaming ceremony that his decision to forgo the stage gave him some regrets: "I miss the applause and I miss the rehearsals. But I won't be acting here, although it is a great honour to have a theatre named after me." A production of *Hamlet*, a role that established Sir John 60 years ago, opens today at the Gielgud in Shaftesbury Avenue.

Sir John, who was 90 last April, was involved in 15 productions at the Globe. Its renaming is also a tribute to the late actor-director Sam Wanamaker, whose dream of creating Shakespeare's Globe on the South Bank will soon come true when it will have exclusive use of the name in London.

As he officially renamed the theatre Sir John joked that he would play Methuselah there on his 100th birthday because it was like "a second home" after acting and directing there for four decades.

He added: "The discipline of eight times a week and the labour of making up and acting on stage is too much for me. What appeals is a good part with a couple of good lines, a good entrance and a good exit. A bit of limelight on me and that's all I ask for."

Galaxy found in the shadow of Milky Way

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A NEW galaxy has been discovered hidden from view behind the Milky Way. The international team of astronomers who found it suspect that there may be many more galaxies concealed behind the gas and dust of the Milky Way, which obscures about a fifth of the sky. Radio waves penetrated the dust to detect the new galaxy, which has been named Dwingeloo 1, after the Dutch radio telescope that found it.

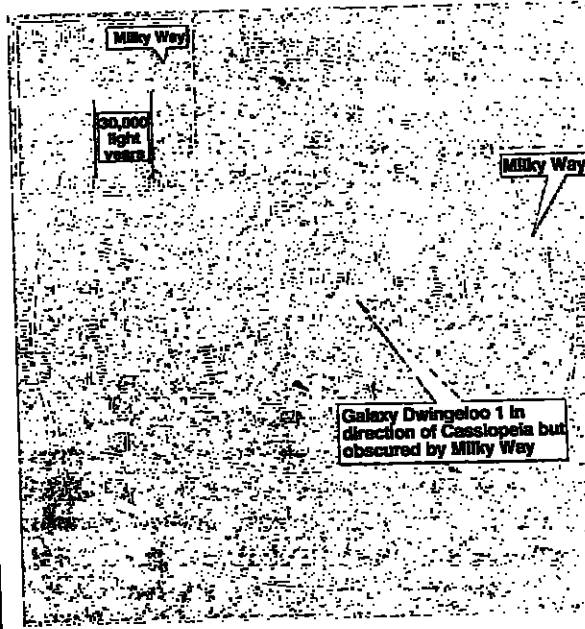
The team responsible for the discovery, reported in this week's issue of *Nature*, comprises Dutch, British and American astronomers, including three from the Institute of Astronomy in Cambridge: Andy Loan, Dr Ofer Lahav and Professor Donald Lynden-Bell.

The search was based on the fact that galaxies contain clouds of neutral hydrogen atoms, which emit radio waves at a wavelength of 21cm. The 25-metre Dwingeloo telescope, built in 1956 and probably the oldest working radio telescope in the world, is looking for hidden galaxies at this wavelength. On 4 August the team found signals from the direction of the constellation of Cassiopeia that appeared to be those of a spiral galaxy. The signals came from a distance of 10 million light years, relatively local by astronomical standards.

The team contacted colleagues at the Isaac Newton telescope at La Palma in the Canary Islands. Knowing exactly where to look, they saw the galaxy at visible and infra-red wavelengths, surrounded by many bright dots that are stars in our own galaxy.

The total mass of Dwingeloo 1 is estimated to be about one third that of the Milky Way. Because the galaxy is faint, it is possible that we are seeing only the central portion of a much larger galaxy.

Astronomers at Queen Mary and Westfield College of the University of London believe that they have found seven new moons of Saturn, by sifting through hundreds of images sent back by the Voyager 2 spacecraft in 1981.



Inquest told of radiation blunders

By A STAFF REPORTER

A CANCER victim would probably have survived had it not been for a hospital radiation therapy blunder, a coroner's court was told yesterday.

The sister of one of the victims said that Professor James Elder, an oncologist, had given Wendy Peake an 80-90 per cent chance of survival after radiotherapy. However, the 43-year-old nursery nurse died less than a year after being given the "all-clear" by doctors.

Shirley Peake said: "Because my sister had been under-dosed the treatment was ineffective in curing the illness." She was giving evidence at the reopened inquests into the deaths of five hospital patients. They were among more than 1,000 cancer sufferers to receive underdoses of radiotherapy from a machine wrongly programmed by Margaret Grieve, a physicist at North Staffordshire Hospital.

The alleged treatment error was noticed at Christmas 1991, by which time a total of 1,045 patients had received underdoses of up to 30 per cent. The jury at Fenton Magistrates' Court, Stoke-on-Trent, heard details from one of two independent reports published last year which found that 492 patients had been "adversely affected". More than 120 people are now taking legal action against the North Staffordshire Health Authority.

The inquests currently before the jury are on Marilyn Fraser, 42; Wendy Peake, 43; June Henshall, 38; Alan Bramfitt, 63; and Millicent Latham, 72. The hearing continues.

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Speaker challenged over timing of Commons debate

MPs unite to condemn editor over forged fax

By JONATHAN PRYNN AND ALICE THOMSON

MPs gave their overwhelming backing last night to a parliamentary investigation of the *Guardian's* use of Commons writing paper during its enquiries into Jonathan Aitken's stay at the Ritz hotel in Paris.

At the end of an ill-tempered debate lasting more than two hours they voted by 313 to 38, a majority of 275, in support of an emergency backbench motion referring Peter Preston, editor of *The Guardian*, to the Commons Privileges Committee.

With Mr Preston looking on from the press gallery, Tory MPs attacked his "downright criminal" use of a forged fax bearing the House of Commons logo to obtain information about Mr Aitken's disputed bill at the hotel.

Labour MPs challenged the Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, over the timing of the debate, claiming that the Government had known about the forgery since May but had not raised it until this week.

David Wilshire, the Tory MP for Spelthorne, who opened the debate and who made the original complaint about the newspaper editor to Miss Boothroyd, condemned Mr Preston's "flagrant abuse of the House". In a speech punctuated by angry interventions from Labour MPs, he accused Mr Preston of criminal conspiracy, forgery and impersonation. He told MPs he had referred the matter to the police, adding: "I would welcome the verdict of a jury and punishment handed down by a judge."

He denied he was out to make score cheap partisan points out of the affair but said: "If I was caught forging faxes, however much I thought I could justify it, I would expect to be pilloried by every newspaper in the land."

Newspaper editors wielded great power and if they started believing that the end always justified the means they would be marching down the route

"of the jackboot and the lynch mob".

Tony Newton, the Leader of the House and the chairman of the Privileges Committee, said he hoped the motion would be accepted but offered no further comment.

For Labour, Ann Taylor, the shadow Commons Leader, agreed that there had been a *prima facie* breach of parliamentary privilege. "This is unacceptable behaviour for an editor of a newspaper, or indeed for anyone else," she said. "This reference to the Privileges Committee is entirely inevitable and entirely appropriate."

However, she questioned why the complaint about the letter, which has been known about since May, was being raised only now. She hoped the committee would also examine which MPs first knew about the forged fax, when they had become aware of it, and why, if MPs knew there had been a flagrant

breach of this kind, they did not report it earlier to the Speaker.

She added: "The fact that Mr Preston was wrong should not be used as a reason for ignoring the issues that Mr Preston was raising, and the evidence that has come to light."

Ian Bruce, the Tory MP for Dorset South, accused Mr Preston during an intervention of trying to "hide the fact that he was working with a blackmailer in trying to bring down this Government."

Roger Gale, Tory MP for Thanet North, said Mr Preston had set himself up as a "Guardian Angel" but had turned out instead "to be the whore from hell".

He had written to the board of *The Guardian* to ask whether Mr Preston had their confidence, adding: "If my friends, former ministers, should be required to resign their offices in order to clear their names, then Mr Preston



Wilshire: condemned Mr Preston's "flagrant abuse of the House"



Taylor: "This is unacceptable behaviour for a newspaper editor"



Bottomley: warned against trying to control legitimate press activities

should be required to do the same."

Barry Sheerman, Labour MP for Huddersfield, said that if the House referred *The Guardian* to the Privileges Committee and took part in "a cosy conspiracy" that ensured decisions were made in secret because an MP was involved, then "ordinary people who day after day are denied justice in this country, will feel angry and frustrated with this institution".

He said MPs should instead think of creating a mechanism which ordinary citizens could use to get justice when unfairly attacked by the media.

Peter Bottomley, Tory MP for Epsom, said that the press must be given the freedom to be wrong. "Criticism must be involved in arguments by all means but don't try to use the Committee of Privileges for trying to control what journalists do in their legitimate role of acting as the vacuum cleaners, picking up all the dirt, sifting it out and making mistakes and often getting it right in what they decide to put out to the public."

George Galloway, Labour MP for Glasgow Hillhead, who said he had twice been a victim of forged letters on Alex Carlile, the only

Liberal Democrat to speak, said the debate had been coloured by outbursts of self-righteousness and unwarranted indignation. "Some Members of this House are out of touch with the real indignation felt by members of the public about MPs whose snouts are so deep in corporate troughs that they have been able to enjoy a diet of almost entirely lobbyist-fed truffles," he said.

Edwina Currie, the Tory MP for Derbyshire South, backed the move to refer Mr Preston to the committee. "Scrutiny by the press is one thing but subterfuge is another, and that is the issue at the heart of *The Guardian's* bad behaviour," she said.

William Rees-Mogg, page 18

Post Office fight upsets ministers' law-making plans

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine's battle to win support for his Post Office privatisation plan is threatening to force ministers into last-minute decisions in setting out their legislative programme.

Ministers were hoping that the Cabinet would today put the finishing touches to the Queen's Speech this month in which she will outline the Government's plans for the next parliamentary session.

However, the President of the Board of Trade's protracted difficulties in persuading Tory backbenchers to support him means the decisions may be delayed until next week.

Today's Cabinet meeting will try to select up to 12 Bills for the Queen's Speech on November 16. But if ministers fail to reach a conclusion, the Cabinet Queen's Speech subcommittee will have to examine the options again next week.

Peter Lilley's Social Security Department is likely to be most directly affected by the decision on the Post Office. The department already has a large-scale Bill to change pensions legislation, including the raising of women's retirement age to 65, and is jointly responsible with the Employment Department for introducing a Bill to create the job-seekers' allowance.

Social security officials are anxiously awaiting approval for legislation introducing new rights for the disabled.



Lilley: department hampered by delay

but ministers are nervous about introducing a potentially costly Bill that will be strongly opposed by ministers pressing for spending cuts.

Although the department is also committed to making changes to the Child Support Agency, it would not try to bring in a fourth Bill, but could make many changes without introducing primary legislation.

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, who has already conceded defeat over a potentially explosive Bill preventing single mothers from jumping the queue for council housing, has ensured Cabinet support for another controversial piece of legislation. The Environment Agency Bill, bringing together three pollution-control organisations, will face a stormy passage as Opposition MPs will point to a decline in environmental standards.

Although Mr Heseltine has yet to win a tough fight against his backbench colleagues over the Post Office, he is understood to have secured a critical victory at the Cabinet table.

Ministers are believed to have backed down in their opposition to plans by Mr Heseltine's department to press ahead with two large-scale Bills in the coming year.

He has overcome calls from senior colleagues to withdraw plans to break up the British Gas monopoly, rather than have two controversial Bills before Parliament simultaneously.

Some ministers feared a repeat of Michael Howard's troubles last year in attempting to steer through two large pieces of legislation, the Police and Magistrates Courts and Criminal Justice Bills.

The Trade and Industry Department is anxious that the gas plans are included in the next session, so that the industry can set in motion plans to start opening up the domestic supply market to competition by 1996.

MoD man admits Trident 'mistakes'

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

A SENIOR Ministry of Defence official admitted last night that poor management led to overspending of £800 million on building facilities for Trident missiles.

MPs questioned Dr Malcolm McIntosh, chief of defence procurement, over the background to the project that caused the biggest overspend on any government works programme. Dr McIntosh conceded that the MoD had failed to keep track of the escalating costs of the project to accommodate the Vanguard nuclear submarine and Trident missile at the Clyde submarine base in Faslane and the Royal Naval Armament Depot at Coulport.

The final bill of £1.9 billion was 72 per cent higher than the original budget and Dr McIntosh said outdated management styles had contributed to spiralling costs. At a

meeting of the Public Accounts Select Committee, Alan Williams, Labour MP for Swansea West, said the project represented a "monumental failure". Tory and Labour MPs demanded assurances that management systems had been changed radically to prevent similar problems arising in future.

Dr McIntosh accepted that the ministry had allowed itself to become dependent on contractors, with no opportunity to pull out of contracts that became more expensive. He also admitted that, although there had been changes in managing the project, "there were individuals who did not move towards new management styles as quickly as they might have done".

In July, the project came under heavy criticism from the National Audit Office for falling behind schedule.

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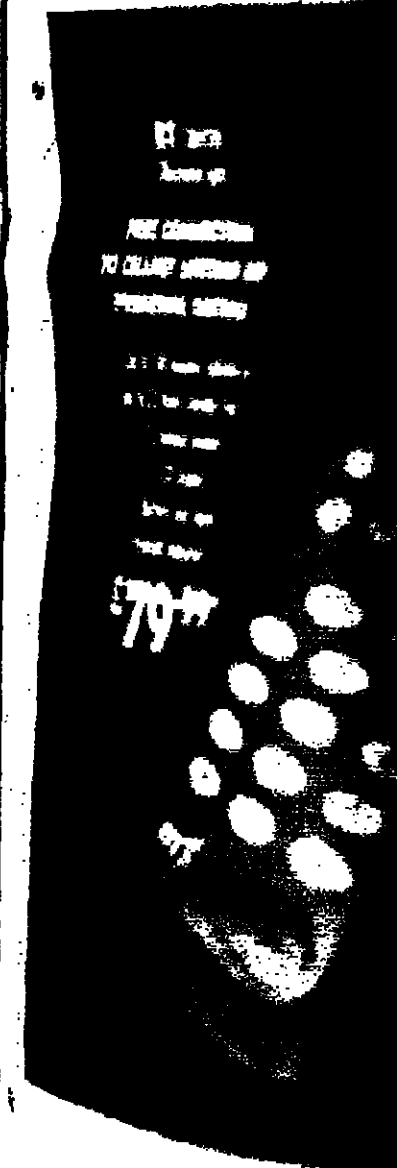
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Literal Democrat accused of confusing voters

Candidate a 'mule' in two-horse race

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Liberal Democrats were cheated out of a seat in the European Parliament when a candidate standing as a Liberal Democrat won more than 10,000 votes, the High Court was told yesterday.

Richard Huggett, the Liberal Democrat candidate, had as much chance as a mule of winning the election and should not have been allowed to confuse voters, the Liberal Democrats claimed.

The two judges were told that as a result of that confusion, the Conservative candidate, Giles Chichester, beat Adrian Sanders, the Liberal Democrat, by 700 votes in the election for Devon and East Plymouth in June.

Mr Sanders and an elector have begun legal proceedings against Mr Chichester and the acting returning officer, Frank Palmer, who accepted Mr Huggett's nomination form. If the Liberal Democrats win the case, the election might have to be held again.

Michael Beloff QC, for Mr Sanders, told Mr Justice Dyson and Mr Justice Forbes that Mr Huggett's stand was "highly calculated" to confuse the voters and frustrate the democratic process. Thousands of people mistakenly voted for Mr Huggett, believing him to be the Liberal Democrat candidate. His name was above that of Mr Sanders on the ballot papers.

Mr Beloff said that Mr Huggett, a 50-year-old retired headmaster who polled 10,203 votes, had "like the mule neither the pride of ancestry nor the hope of posterity when he stood for election."

Mr Huggett finished sixth in the poll, way ahead of the next most successful independent candidate. But had no record in national or local politics, had distributed no election leaflets and had attended just two public meetings during his "campaign".

Mr Chichester, son of the yachtsman Sir Francis Chichester, won with 74,953, against 74,253 for Mr Sanders.

Mr Beloff told the court the similarities between the name Literal Democrat were bound to confuse voters. "The eye runs over the page, comes to number five, expecting that there will be a Liberal Democrat candidate, looks casually at that and perceives that Mr Huggett is the man."

At a preliminary hearing expected to last three days the judges are being asked to rule on whether Mr Palmer was right to accept Mr Huggett's nomination. Mr Sanders claims the returning officer was duty bound to reject it as it did not amount to an accurate description of himself to voters.

Mr Palmer says it was not part of his duty to inquire into Mr Huggett's record in politics. Mr Chichester says that the description of Mr Huggett on the ballot paper left no room for doubt.

The hearing continues.



Irony Heseltine fails to keep Thatcherism alive

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Thatcherism has now been formally buried. The last rites were read in a Commons conference room yesterday. The final attempt to keep the flame alive was made, with exquisite irony, by Michael Heseltine, Baroness Thatcher's destroyer of four years ago.

His failure, after repeated attempts, to persuade the hard core of 12 to 16 rebel Conservative backbenchers to accept even his compromise plan for the privatisation of the Post Office is a turning point. The decision is the first, symbolic, test of the strategy of consolidation put forward by the Prime Minister at the Tory party conference three weeks ago.

The defeat has come at the hands of a strange combination of the hard Tory left, such as Hugh Dykes, James Lester, Robert Hicks, and Sir David Knox (many of whom voted for Mr Heseltine in November 1990), and right-wing populists such as Nicholas Winterbottom, Sir Rhodes Boyson, and James Fawcett, plus some knights of the shire. They have exploited the Government's vulnerability with a paper majority now only in the mid-teens.

Their concern, and it is shared by many mainstream MPs, is that Post Office privatisation would unnecessarily annoy Tory supporters, even though the counters service would remain in the public sector, thus allowing the Government to influence the number of post offices. A desire to avoid arousing such fears explains why the Tory whips have been so cautious all along.

Some Tory doubters describe it as a measure from the 1980s. They want to avoid a repetition of the bitter public rows over water privatisation before the last election and, more recently, over the break-up of British Rail, which have so damaged the Tories. MPs are also sensitive to complaints about the high pay of executives of privatised utilities.

Mr Heseltine will never give the slightest suggestion that he has been defeated. He

is too consummate a politician for that. For him, every event is an opportunity. It is never a setback. He will no doubt present a lifting of commercial constraints on the Post Office within the public sector as a big advance, even though it was dismissed by the consultative Green Paper as the least attractive of the three options.

Although much has been achieved by existing managers within the public sector, this is not the same as full privatisation: otherwise, why have majority stakes in most other utilities been sold? There are serious defects in privatisation — the preservation of monopolies, inadequate regulation and the absence of sufficient competition.

But the main reason why utilities have been privatised in the past is that, unless the Government shareholding is reduced to a minority, the Treasury would continue to have to guarantee their debts. Their loans would therefore have to count within the public sector borrowing requirement and would be restricted by the Treasury — thus defeating the whole point of the exercise. That was the determining factor in the original sale of British Telecom a decade ago. The clever wheeze floated by Mr Heseltine in recent days such as a partial sale, with shares held in trust for employees, has rightly been regarded as a fudge.

Kenneth Clarke, who has been a strong supporter of the sale of a majority stake, yesterday noted how strange it was that these doubts were being expressed in the country that had pioneered privatisation. But if the full Cabinet this morning does drop any idea of full-scale privatisation, it will show how the tide of Thatcherism is now indisputably receding. We are in the era of managerial Government.

PETER RIDDELL

Clarke rejects call for tax cuts

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH Clarke put himself on a collision course with senior Tory backbenchers last night by brushing aside their demands for tax cuts in this month's Budget.

The MPs pressed for £2 billion of tax cuts, targeted on the low-paid, at a private meeting with the Chancellor in the Treasury. But Mr Clarke stuck to his austerity message, saying his priority was retaining the confidence of the City by squeezing inflation and state borrowing.

Mr Clarke is said to have argued that there was little room for swinging cuts in public expenditure, in spite of calls from leading members of the Tory backbench finance committee for £4-£6 billion to be shaved off public spending plans next year.

Apart from the £2 billion to finance raising the threshold for personal allowances and extending the 20p tax band, MPs are also said to have demanded a further £2 billion in tax concessions on capital gains and inheritance tax with extra help for child-care costs.

MPs are said to have pointed out that most departmental budgets are set to rise by 4.65 per cent over planned spending in last year's public expenditure White Paper. Social security spending is set to rise 5.49 per cent in spite of a faster than expected fall in unemployment.

The officers, mainly from the right wing of the party, agreed with the Chancellor that the City had to be kept happy but they argued that there had to be some movement towards a feel-good factor.

Earlier yesterday Mr Clarke publicly aligned himself with the Governor of the Bank of England over the need to keep inflation under strict control. "I have to make sure that inflation is not one of those things that screws up a great British recovery, again," Mr Clarke said.

IN PARLIAMENT TODAY

The Commons and Lords meet at 3.30pm to be prorogued at the end of the session. They will return for the Queen's speech on November 15.

Hanley complains of quango witchhunt

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JEREMY Hanley, the Tory party chairman, yesterday accused the media and the Labour Party of "sinking to a new low over their latest witchhunt" as the BBC claimed that 24 wives and husbands of Tory MPs and peers had jobs on quangos.

Mr Hanley said the fact that these people were eminently qualified and were appointed to public bodies on the grounds of merit had not crossed anyone's mind.

The BBC's *Here and Now* programme, broadcast last night, said the examples of Tory spouses included Diane Yeo, wife of the former environment minister, who is a Charity Commissioner; Lady Archer, who is on the Energy Advisory Board; and Addenbrookes Trust and the National Museum of Science and Industry, and Lady Howe, chairman of the Broadcasting Standards Council.

Mr Hanley said it was "pure chauvinism" to suggest that Elspeth Howe and Mary Archer or any other of the women mentioned were appointed to public bodies simply because of their husband's position.

The BBC report said that 37 of the 200 non-parliamentary members of the Conservative Party National Union Executive Committee had been given jobs on quangos, only one Labour MP's wife, Kathleen Dalyell, had a quango job, according to the BBC report. She is a member of the Royal Fine Art Commission.



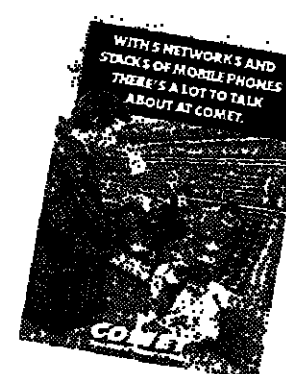
Hanley: media "is sinking to new low"

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UN officials 'play down' number of attacks by Serbs

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

UNITED Nations officials in Bosnia appear to be deliberately under-reporting attacks by Serbs.

On Sunday, the UN publicly reported 490 "firing incidents" or ceasefire violations, ranging from single shots to mortar rounds. A senior UN officer said the actual number counted was 3,700, making Sunday one of the most violent days since the February 9 Nato ultimatum.

One evening this week, a group of foreign journalists in Sarajevo sat at an open window and listened to the remarkable number of explosions coming from the western end of the city. In ten minutes there were roughly 15 large explosions. They started early in the evening and lasted early into the next morning.

Convinced that the large number of explosions was significant, one of the reporters questioned a UN press officer the next day. The officer, a French major, said the UN observers posted around Sarajevo to record such incidents recorded only 16 explosions throughout the day, a tiny fraction of what journalists heard themselves.

Though the incident itself was minor, it reflects the growing disparity between Sarajevo as the UN reports it and

the experience of others on the ground. At issue is the way in which the plight of Sarajevo is portrayed to the outside world. Nato commanders complain that the UN is ruining their credibility, allowing violations of the the Sarajevo and Gorazde ceasefires to go unchallenged.

On Tuesday a UN press officer in Sarajevo said he knew nothing of a Serb 37mm anti-aircraft cannon violating the Nato-imposed heavy weapons exclusion zone around Gorazde. Yet an unreleased military paper widely available within the UN reported it. Top UN officials and commanders appear to be concerned that unrestricted access to information about Serb military activity will increase pressure on Western leaders to get tough with the Serbs.

That the UN policy of under-reporting comes at a time when the truce around Sarajevo appears to be flagging is unlikely to be a coincidence. A UN official claimed that General Bertrand de Lapresle, the UN's overall military commander in the Balkans, issued a directive to Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose's command in Bosnia last week. It said to stop releasing the number of

incidents to reporters. General Rose's headquarters went one better and stopped releasing them to anyone.

A Western diplomat said the recent decision reflected badly on the UN's assessment of the situation. "It doesn't say much for the operation if they can't even be honest within their own organisation," he said.

Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Spicer, the UN's chief spokesman in Bosnia, dismisses charges that the organisation is making political judgments about what information is released and claims the issue is technical. "There is a lot of difficulty in assessing the accuracy in the way we report firing incidents," he told a sceptical press conference on Monday. "We are looking at our reporting at the moment to see if we can come up with a more accurate method."

□ Serbs squeezed: Serb forces in central Bosnia were squeezed on two fronts yesterday by Bosnian government troops advancing from the east and their Croat allies pushing up from the south. The fight for Kupres, in south-central Bosnia, was only one of three offensives by the Muslim-led government, but was significant for the apparent co-ordination with Bosnian Croat forces. (AP)



One of the wall paintings in the wooden church at Iud din Deal in the Maramures mountains of Romania

Britain to help save Romania churches

BY MARCUS BINNEY

ROMANIA has been offered money by the Foreign Office to fund in part the rescue of a group of 350 ancient wooden churches affected by rising damp, general decay — and woodpecker attack.

To coincide with the visit of President Iliescu to this country, and prompted by Andrew Bache, Britain's Ambassador to Bucharest, the Foreign Office has offered the funds to help to bring Romanian conservationists to Britain to study the preservation of wall paintings at the British Museum and timber decay at the Building Research Establishment. They will also learn about project management at the National Trust.

Brian Tanner, at South Thames College, who is raising funds for the project, said: "There are 350 churches in the Maramures mountains in desperate need of repair."

Some of them urgently need jacking up, others need damp-proof membranes to protect the wall paintings. Others, bizarrely, are suffering from woodpecker attack.

David Buxton, who is an authority on Eastern European churches, said: "The

Maramures churches are the most striking group in Romania. They are marvels of carpentry with towers two or three times as high as the churches are long. Remarkably, the timbers don't descend to the ground but rest on diagonal supports."

The next stage of the project is to raise £90,000 towards the repair of six churches, matching funds promised by the Romanian Ministry of Culture. Following the model of the campaign to save Venice, support is being sought from countries with similar churches all over Europe and North America.

Technical assistance is likely to come from Norway, where the wooden stave churches have a strong family resemblance to the Maramures churches. The Romanian National Forestry Commission will supply seasoned timber for repairs.

The painted interiors of the Maramures churches are now suffering acutely from damp and will largely vanish if urgent repairs are not undertaken.

Couple pardoned, page 1



The church at Buzesti, which was built in 1799

Cold War mediator tried for blackmail

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

ONE of the most mysterious figures of the Cold War, the East German go-between Wolfgang Vogel, went on trial in Berlin yesterday accused of blackmailing East Germans trying to emigrate to the West.

The 69-year-old lawyer, who once vowed that he would "seal a pact with the devil" to help his client, has received plaudits from leading West German politicians, including Helmut Schmidt, the former Chancellor, and Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the former Foreign Minister. He negotiated the release of 34,000 political prisoners for hard cash from Bonn, helped almost 250,000 other East Germans to emigrate and organised several spy exchanges.

Now, he is accused of illegally pocketing money from some of his clients, and forcing them to sell property at bargain prices to the Communist party elite and the Stasi secret police. The question before the court is whether Herr Vogel is a saint or a sinner.

Herr Vogel has energetically denied the formal charges of duping and blackmailing 21 of his clients. "I am defending today a part of intra-German history. Buying freedom was not a crime but rather an act of humanity," he claimed.

The 740-page chargesheet originally claimed that he had put undue pressure on 53 of his clients, but the number of cases has been scaled down, prompting his defence team to seek a quick adjournment.

Herr Vogel was close to Erich Honecker, the late East German leader, and was hence able to bypass the usual bureaucratic channels when negotiating his East-West deals. Despite media claims that he collaborated with the Stasi, the secret police appear to have been unaware of the scope of his political dealings.

He first became known to the West when he helped to arrange the exchange in 1962 of Gary Powers, the American pilot whose U2 surveillance plane had been shot down over the Soviet Union, for Rudolf Abel, a Soviet spy. After that, whenever an East-West spy exchange loomed, Herr Vogel's golden Mercedes could be seen passing through Checkpoint Charlie, and being respectfully saluted by the East German border police. It was Herr Vogel who worked out the details of the releases of Gunter Guillaume, the East German spy, and of Natan Sharansky, the Russian dissident and Jewish activist.

In eastern Germany opinions are divided over his activities. Although he helped thousands to leave the old Communist state, his interpretation of East German law — that the émigré was obliged to sell or give away his property — has been questioned by human rights experts.

He argues that he should not be held responsible for the conundrum of whether buying the freedom of unjustly sentenced prisoners is morally acceptable or reprehensible. "It takes two parties in such a transaction, the buyer and the seller," Herr Vogel claims he was neither: merely the postman delivering the price list through the barbed wire and concrete of the Berlin Wall.



Vogel: arranged release of 34,000 prisoners

Camp guard to face war trial

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANY is prepared to hand over a former Serb karate teacher accused of murdering to the international war crimes tribunal at The Hague, when a formal request is made, a Justice Ministry official said yesterday.

Investigations are under way against 51 other suspected war criminals — almost all Bosnian Serbs — who have used Germany as a refuge. The official request for the extradition of Dusan Tadic, 38, is expected to be lodged on November 8, and he is likely to be the first defendant in the United Nations tribunal. Cells are ready in the Dutch resort

of Scheveningen where Nazis were held after the war.

The German authorities arrested Mr Tadic last February in Munich, where he was visiting his brother. Since then detectives have been hearing witnesses, many of them former inmates of the notorious Omarska prison camp. "Tadic is accused of complicity in genocide, murder and grievous bodily harm," said a federal prosecutor, Kay Nehm, yesterday.

German law leaves open the possibility of arresting and sentencing somebody who committed genocidal crimes abroad, a legal provision sup-

posed to make it easier to try Nazi war criminals.

Witnesses claim that, among other atrocities, Mr Tadic, a guard, beat to death three Muslims. Mr Tadic, from Prijedor in northwest Bosnia, is accused of preparing hit lists of local Muslims forced to leave their homes under threat of death.

Mr Tadic denies the crimes and through his German lawyer, Steffen Ufer, has denounced "a Muslim conspiracy". His lawyer says that he will resist extradition to The Hague on the ground that Mr Tadic would face a "political trial".

Pressure grows on Yeltsin to discard Defence Minister

FROM ANATOL LIEVIN IN MOSCOW

THE Speaker of the Russian Parliament yesterday told President Yeltsin that a government reshuffle is urgently necessary, as leading deputies called for the resignation of Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister. A reshuffle will be bound to strengthen conservative forces at the expense of liberal reformers.

The government of Viktor Chernomyrdin was overwhelmingly defeated in a parliamentary vote of "no confidence" last week, but the motion failed to get the necessary support of an absolute majority of deputies. The Duma Speaker, Ivan Rybkin, is considered a Yeltsin supporter, and his statement is a sign that he thinks the parliament is becoming increasingly uncontrollable and that concessions to the moderate opposition are essential.

Among the certain victims in any big change will be General Grachev. The head of the Duma's defence committee, Pavel Yushenkov, called yesterday for his resignation, after his Deputy Minister was dismissed on Tuesday. General Grachev's removal would leave Mr Yeltsin weakened.

Mr Yushenkov, another Yeltsin supporter, said that after the sacking of General Matvei Burlakov, under investigation for corruption,

"the next logical step should be the voluntary resignation of Grachev. This would follow the officers' code of honour and help the moral cleansing of the army."

General Grachev had firmly backed General Burlakov. He pushed through his appointment as First Deputy Minister two months ago against strong opposition from other senior officers.

Demands for General Burlakov's removal reached a crescendo after the murder three weeks ago of Dmitri Khodakov, the investigative journalist in the forefront of press accusations against the general. Mr Khodakov was due to testify next week before a parliamentary commission investigating military corruption. Russian papers, both pro-Yeltsin and opposition, have alleged that General Grachev pushed General Burlakov's new appointment because he is also implicated in corruption.

General Grachev's isolation is due largely to his unqualified support for Mr Yeltsin, and his use of the army to crush last October's parliamentary revolt. General Grachev is also accused within the military of weakness and subservience in failing to defend the military budget against savage cuts.

are asking whether Signor Messori is serious or merely motivated by a desire to promote the Pope's book, in which he has an interest.

Orlando Petrossillo, Vatican correspondent of *Il Messaggero*, believes the conspiracy theory can be "easily explained". The Pope "has been targeted by Western progressive circles because of his saying 'No' to use of contraceptives and women priests". He added that his critics "are especially feminists and theologians... The most insidious news stories come from them and then are amplified by the mass media".

Plot to dump Pope alleged

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE Pope is the victim of a sinister plot by liberal Roman Catholics, who want to force the Church leader to resign by making him appear senile, it was claimed yesterday.

Vittorio Messori, a journalist close to the Pope, who submitted questions for an interview that inspired the Pontiff to write his own book, caused a storm in Rome when he declared that there is "a conspiracy to make the 74-year-old Pope resign". Signor Messori said left-wing clergy

were behind the plot because they opposed the Pope's conservative views on abortion and contraception.

He has also suggested that the 1981 assassination attempt on the Pope was the work of his enemies within the Church rather than the former Soviet KGB. This theory has been recently propounded by Orak Celik, a Turkish drug-runner extradited to Rome from France for questioning about the attack by a Turkish gunman in St Peter's Square.

Vatican sources have poured scorn in the past on speculation that the Pope might resign. But now some

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Falklands alarmed by Britain's closer ties with Argentina

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

FALKLAND Islanders were reacting with growing unease yesterday as the extent of Britain's warmer relations with Argentina became clear.

Eduardo Menem, brother of President Menem of Argentina, is being fêted by royalty during an official visit to London this week and the Duke of York, veteran of the Falklands hostilities, is to visit Buenos Aires later this month.

The significant improvement in Anglo-Argentine ties is largely based on growing trade between the two countries, worth £320 million last year. Falkland Islanders, however, fear that Britain will eventually discuss Argentine demands for sovereignty over them, despite strong denials from Whitehall that the issue is negotiable. The islanders are also galled by President Menem's offer this week of about £1 million to each to persuade them to accept Argentine sovereignty.

The Duke of Edinburgh yesterday unveiled a statue commemorating General José de San Martín, the 19th century Latin American independence leader, outside the Argentine Embassy in London. Today the Duke of York will attend a lunch given by Douglas Hurd, the Foreign

Secretary, for Dr Menem, President of the Argentine Senate, who began his visit to Britain on Sunday.

During his visit to Buenos Aires, the Duke of York will unveil a statue of George Canning near the British Ambassador's residence, to replace one which was toppled by angry Argentine crowds during the Falklands hostilities. Canning (1770-1827), was Foreign Secretary at the same time that San Martín (1778-1850) was campaigning to free Argentina, Chile and Peru from Spanish rule. Mr Hurd attended yesterday's unveiling ceremony in front of hundreds of Argentines and Britons, but in the absence of Falkland Islands representatives who were not invited.

"We see all contacts strengthening ties as of benefit to us," said a spokesman for the Falkland Islands government. "But these contacts seem slightly incongruous after President Menem offered a big insult by offering to buy over 2,000 British citizens. We were not invited to the statue ceremony and I am not sure what the answer would have been if we had."

David Tatham, Governor of the Falklands, said the idea of offering cash to help to per-

suade the islanders to accept Argentine nationality, first suggested during the Falklands war, was of dubious morality. "It puts the morality of the Argentine government in an interesting light if they believe nationality can be bought or sold," he said.

On Monday, President Menem said: "One of the possibilities, which is still not certain, is to recover [sovereignty] by compensating the islanders. Let's not forget that in its time, Alaska was bought from the Russians."

Mr Hurd, whose father was a director of the Falkland Islands Company, made his first visit there in April, when he emphasised that sovereignty was not negotiable. Since then, British contacts with Buenos Aires have flourished. Richard Needham, Trade Minister, Timothy Eggar, Energy Minister, and John Gummer, Environment Secretary, have all visited Argentina.

Canning, who was Prime Minister for the last six months of his life, was instrumental in winning international recognition for the newly independent Latin American countries.

Duke's visit, page 1
Leading article, page 19



Mario Campora, the Argentine Ambassador, Senator Eduardo Menem and Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, at yesterday's ceremony

Islanders at odds over cash and wildlife

FROM NICK NUTTALL IN PORT STANLEY

Poll looks to the future

The Times will tomorrow publish the results of an exclusive MORI poll of Falkland Islanders about how they regard their future 12 years after the Falklands campaign. The survey, involving 203 of the 2,200 islanders, reveals how they regard Argentina and their attitude towards the British Government.

would rather go with \$1.5 million in their pockets than nothing."

John Fowler, editor of *Penguin News*, said he knew several people prepared to accept Argentine money. "They believe the islands are now being run by people who were not born here but are feathering their nests," Mr Fowler said. "Despite the

boom since the fishing industry started in the mid-1980s, many islanders have not seen any cash themselves."

Mike Rendal, owner of the Malvinas Hotel in Stanley, said he believed that islanders prepared to take the Argentine offer had failed to grasp the consequences.

"Where will they go with the money? They couldn't stay here and they couldn't go to the UK. How could they stand in a pub next to someone whose son had been killed fighting to liberate the Falklands?" he said.

John Cheek, another member of the Falklands Executive Council and a local businessman, accused President Menem of playing politics with the island's future for the sake of his own electoral fortunes.

There is also rising concern over environmental issues. Last week the Legislative Council approved an oil bill which gives the green light to exploration licences. The move

is supported by many islanders because of the revenues it may generate in an economy dependent on world wool markets and fishing. But they fear that their way of life may be lost forever, and are concerned that people may fight for their slice of the oil revenues and that huge numbers of oil workers will be descending on the small community.

The Falklands have some of the most spectacular and unique birds, fish and marine life, including rockhopper penguins, albatrosses and the world's biggest breeding colony of sea lions, but some of the weakest conservation laws in the world. But the rockhopper colonies, which account for half the world's population, have slumped to about a third of their 1930s levels. There has also been a dramatic decline in the island's population of sea lions.

Increased tourism and oil exploration could be the last straw pushing sea lions, in particular, to extinction in a

couple of decades, scientists believe. The British Government is coming under increasing pressure at home and abroad from environmentalists and scientists to persuade the island to draft tough new conservation legislation.

This week the Foreign Office sent Graham Boyce, its head of environment, science and energy, to the islands. "My role is to try to get the islanders moving in the direction of bringing their wildlife legislation up to date," he said. The Foreign Office is also prepared to fund pilot surveys of wildlife and its habitats.

But the Foreign Office and the island's growing band of conservationists face an uphill struggle. Since the 1982 war many of the sheep grazing lands formerly owned by absentee landlords have been sold off to local farmers as smaller units. Some resent the idea of bureaucrats and government officials trying to seize back land for wildlife reserves.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Drunken captain halted

Stockholm: The captain of a roll-on roll-off Baltic ferry was ordered to sober up by Swedish authorities after being found drunk on his ship (Nicholas George writes). The 6,600-tonne *Donata* cargo ferry, carrying 11 passengers, was forced to drop anchor by a Swedish pilot shortly after leaving Stockholm harbour after the pilot realised the Estonian captain, Tõnu Tüvel, was drunk. The ship was being chartered by Estline, the shipping line which ran the ferry Estonia which sank in September, killing at least 900 people.

Children killed

Kigali: Twenty-six children were among 36 people killed by attackers who crossed from Zaire into the northwestern Rwandan village of Rutagara, a UN military spokesman said. (Reuters)

Jail chief goes

Hamburg: The governor of a prison from which two criminals escaped on an 800-mile spree of robbery, hostage-taking and car hijacking before their recapture on Tuesday, has been dismissed. (AFP)

New business

Seoul: Li Peng, China's Prime Minister, agreed to work with President Kim Young Sam for Korean peace and won a £2 billion investment promise from Samsung Electronics. (Reuters)

Ban lifted

Manila: A Philippines judge has lifted an order banning victims of human rights abuses under Ferdinand Marcos's rule from giving evidence to a US lawyer seeking damages on their behalf. (Reuters)

Marine suicide

Washington: Sergeant Richard Stumpf, 24, a US Marine Corps drill instructor, shot himself dead in South Carolina in front of 59 new recruits waiting for swimming lessons. (Reuters)

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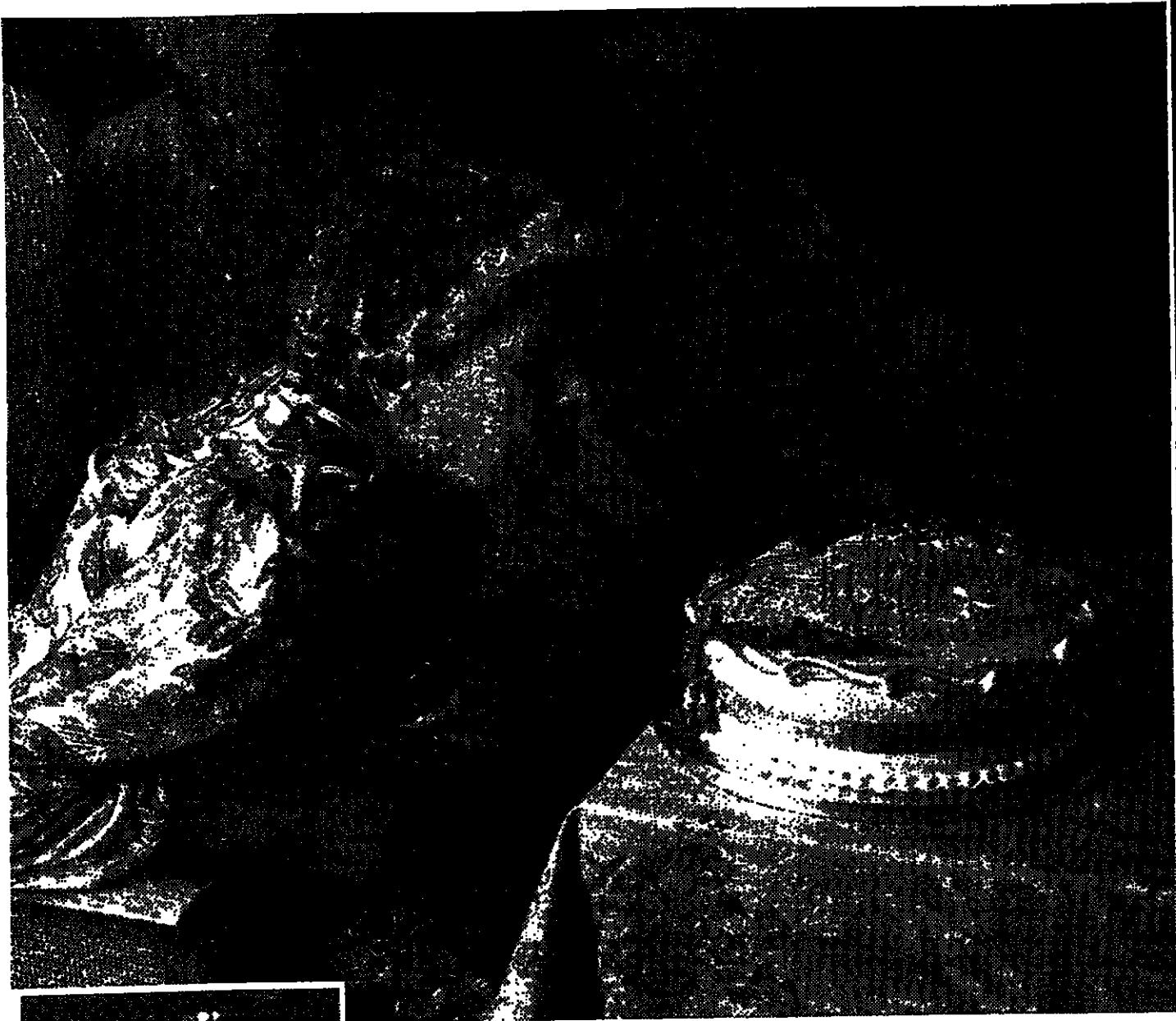
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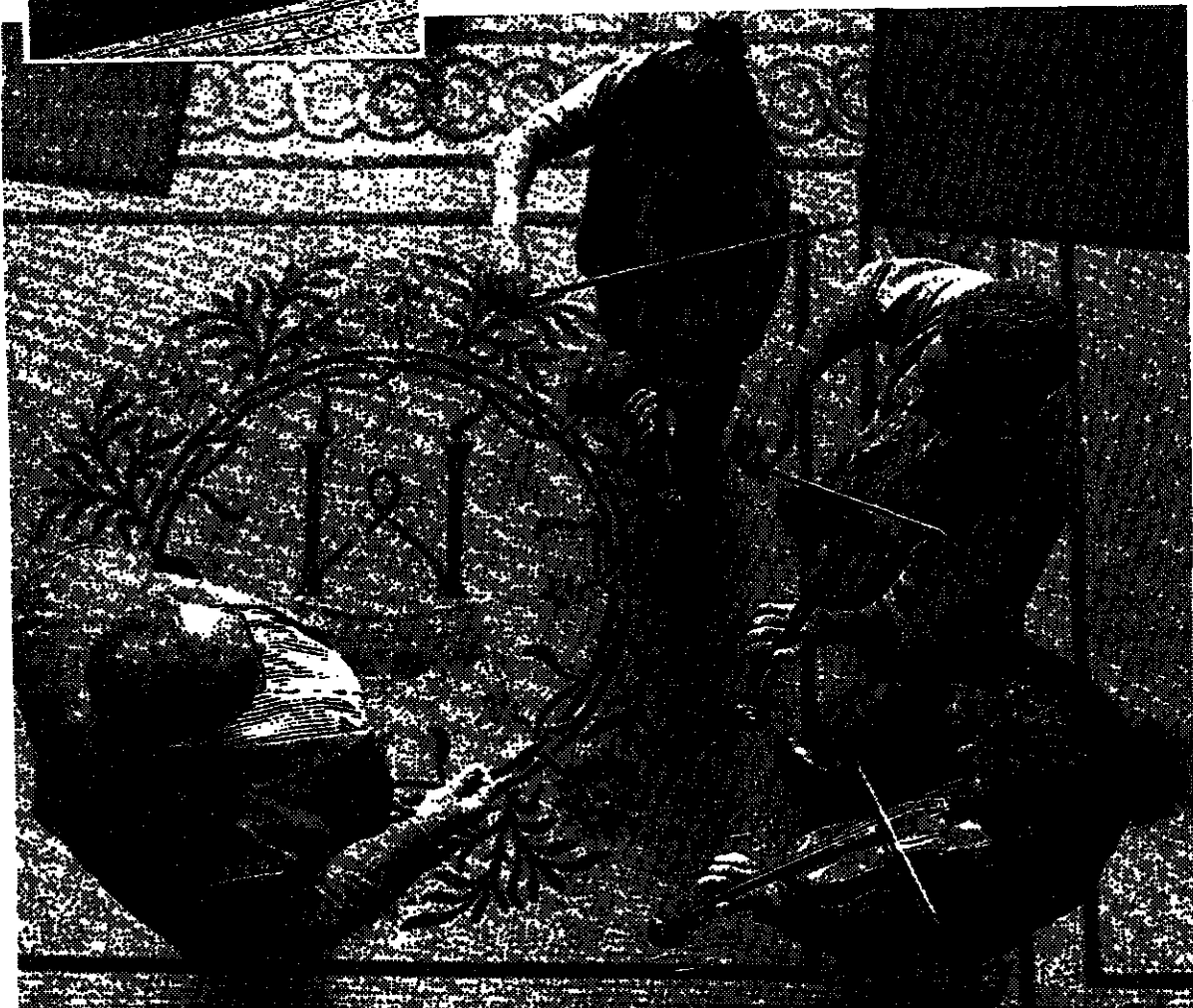
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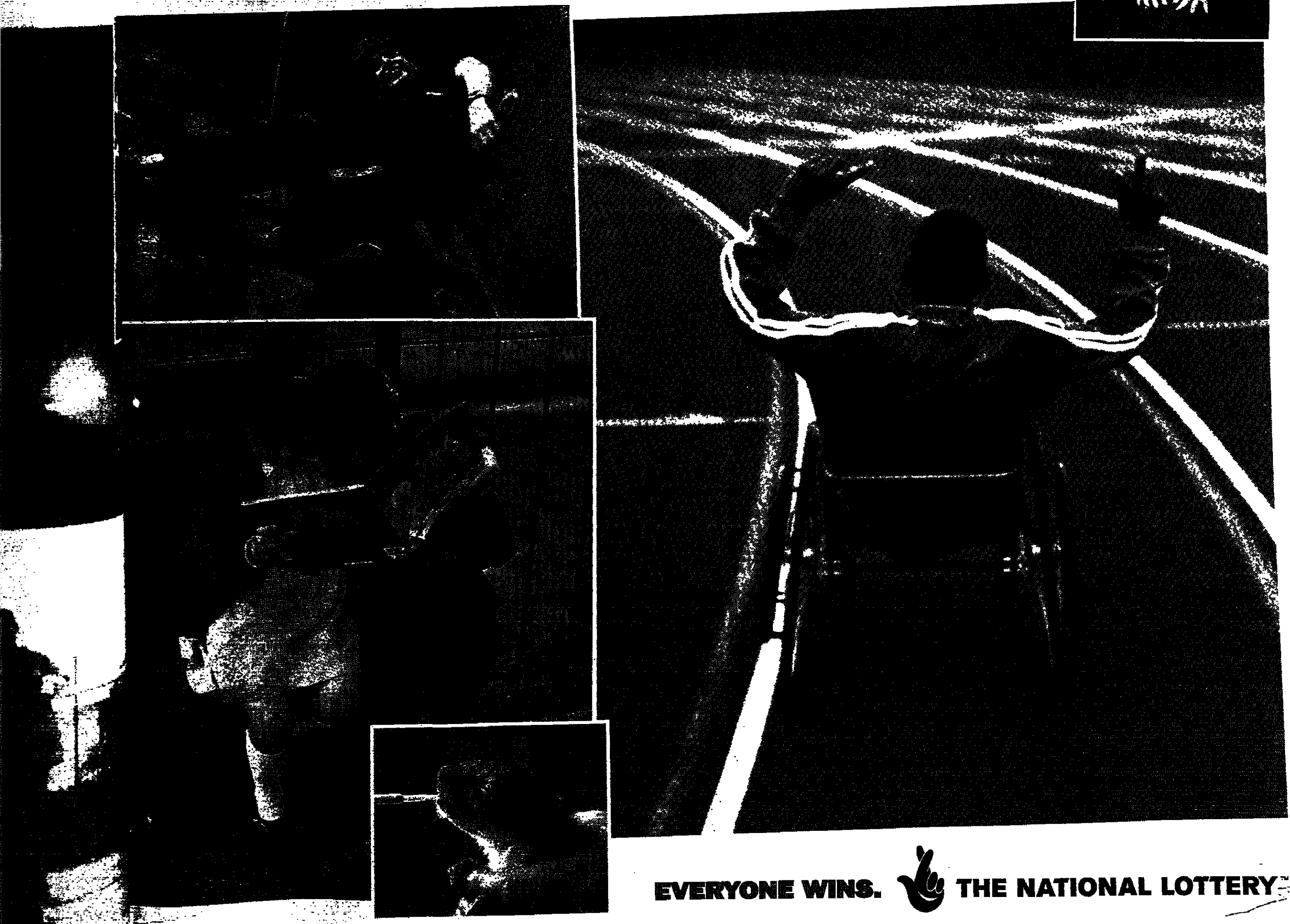
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Algerian killings spiral as radicals seek vengeance

FROM GENEVE ARDO IN ALGIERS

ISLAMIC militants failed to murder Omar Belhouche when they ambushed his car last year as he took his children to school. Since then, they have tried to kill his spirit.

"Your blood will flow like the blood of all secularists," reads a death threat sent to Mr Belhouche, the editor of *Al-Wakef*, one of Algeria's leading French-language dailies. "Mr Omar, you know in your deep conscience you are living on the wrong side of life. The Algerian people would like to live according to Islam... even if the world goes up in flames!" reads another.

In two years of a raging civil war between Islamic radicals and the military-backed government, journalists, artists, trade unionists and teachers have become caught in the crossfire. They are being killed, Muslim extremists say, for influencing society in ways that contradict Islamic principles.

"Of course, intellectuals are being killed," says Saleh Sidhoum, a sympathiser with the radical group, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). "They are killed because they are accomplices in the political system. Journalists are being killed because they insult the Islamic movement."

When asked why Islamic militants were killing innocent teachers, Mr Sidhoum replied: "It is the government, not the Islamists, who are doing these killings. The government wants to convince the world that the Islamic movement is barbaric."

Murders and death threats are forcing Algeria's secularists to live life on the run. Like many journalists, Mr Belhouche sleeps in the

Hotel Manar, a government-guarded retreat in the city's high-rent district, home to the country's bureaucrats. Other Algerians under threat camp in a basement in the centre of town. They spend their days chain-smoking, venturing outside in borrowed cars to escape detection.

"I live like an animal," Mr Belhouche laments, sitting in his office surrounded by guards. "My wife died after the assassination attempt because she had heart problems. But I can't leave. Algerians must fight for their country and we must do it from the inside." Algeria's

6 I live like an animal, but I can't leave. Algerians must fight for their country and must do it from inside

secularists are trying to arouse popular support against the militants. Journalists have continued writing articles against the radicals despite the murders of at least 19 of their colleagues.

Teachers in Algiers have ignored warnings to stop giving French lessons, though dozens of colleagues have been killed and an estimated 500 schools burnt down. One teacher, who refused to separate male and female students, had her throat slit in front of her pupils. "We swore by the side of the victims that Algeria will become a democratic state," says Zazi Sadou, a writer and film-maker on the militants' blacklist. "I strongly

believe we shall win, but it will take time and a lot of lives."

Ms Sadou spends her day in the basement with other activists. Her husband and child moved to Paris out of fear they would be killed if the militants could not find her. "Death is by my side every day. I have no fixed home," she says.

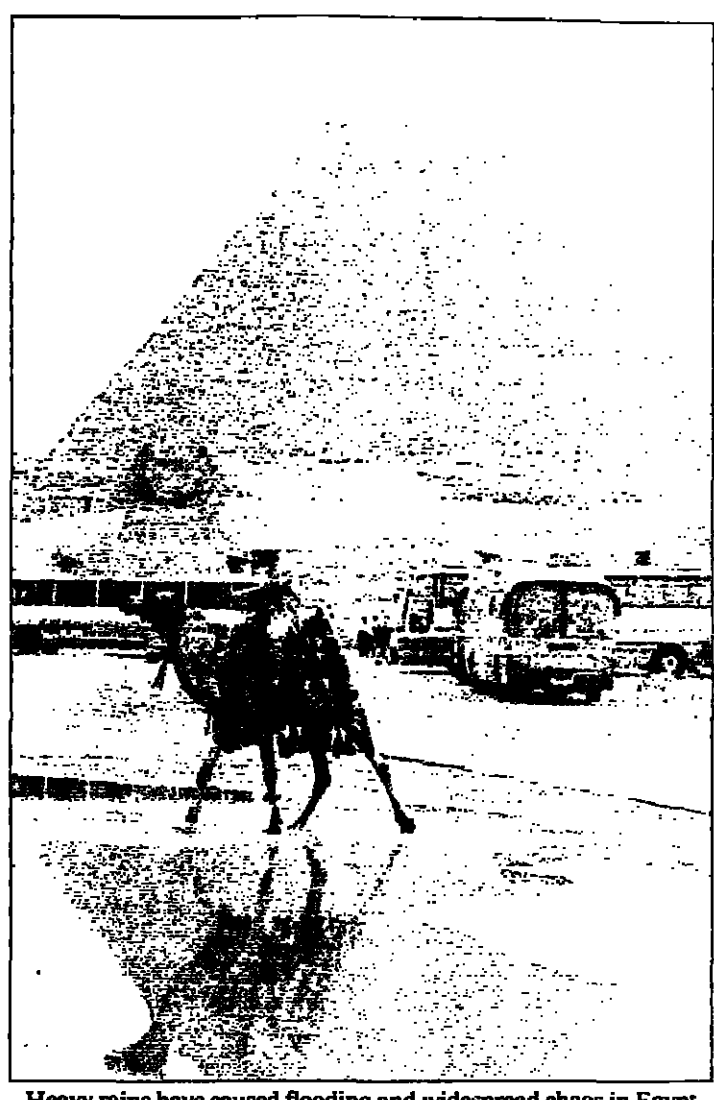
It is often difficult to discern who is behind the gun. According to Western and Algerian human rights activists, the government is involved in counter-terrorism. Security forces conduct night raids in the countryside, killing young men suspected of being Islamic militants. An estimated 20,000 to 30,000 people have been killed in the war since 1992, although the government puts the toll at 10,000.

Many Algerians have become disillusioned with the government as they have with the Islamic movement. When elections were held in 1990 and 1991, Algerians handed the FIS a majority of votes. But since the government cancelled the second round of polls in January 1992 because Islamic radicals were certain to take control of the national parliament, the vengeance of Islamic hardliners has turned society against them.

"These people say they are Muslims, but in the Koran it says you shouldn't kill," said Zohra Filali, whose writer and doctor husband, Laadi, was shot dead in March 1993 by Islamic radicals.

Building stormed: At least 13 people were killed when security forces stormed a 15-storey building in Algiers where an armed Islamic gang was hiding. (AFP)

Alastair Horne, page 18
Leading article, page 19



Heavy rains have caused flooding and widespread chaos in Egypt

Up to 150 die in Egyptian fire and flood

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN DURUNQA, EGYPT

AT LEAST 122 people were killed in this southern Egyptian town yesterday in an explosion and fire blamed on a storm. Flooding in the area left more than 20 others dead and thousands homeless.

The fire in Durunqa, 200 miles south of Cairo, was still raging in an oil depot more than 12 hours after the explosion. Large sections of the town were levelled as the fire spread. The town's 22,000 residents were evacuated to schools and government buildings in nearby Assiut.

The explosion was apparently caused when torrential rains caused a bridge to collapse at the government-run oil storage depot. Witnesses said flames shot about 40ft into the air and burning oil was carried into the town on flood waters. Flooding in other areas of Assiut province cost at least 29 lives.

Samih al-Saeed, Governor of Assiut province, declared a state of emergency and asked for army helicopters to help put out the fire. The nine oil tanks at the edge of Durunqa held 15,000 tonnes of petroleum. Mr al-Saeed said many of the victims were older people, women and children who could not escape the fire.

Atef Sedki, the Egyptian Prime Minister, ordered all government ministries to help provide emergency services to Assiut province. Hundreds of people made homeless by the fire and floods gathered outside the Governor's office in Assiut, demanding food and shelter.

Hostages brief Delhi police on kidnapping

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

THREE Britons and an American who were held hostage by Islamic extremists in India spent hours with police, intelligence officers and government officials yesterday, giving details of their ordeal.

It appears that the kidnap gang intended to capture at least six British and American nationals to raise the political temperature in Kashmir and force the government to release several militants held in jail. The affair has unnerved the large expatriate population in Delhi, which has never been specifically targeted by militant groups from Kashmir or anywhere else. The kidnappers apparently intended to focus on tourists staying in cheap hotels, since their disappearance might not become known immediately.

The suspected ringleader, Saifullah Khan, a Pakistani who lived in south Delhi, has been arrested. His home was raided after his address was discovered on an envelope found in a house near the city of Ghazabad, 12 miles east of Delhi, where the American, Bela Joseph Nuss, had been held in chains.

This house and the house where the Britons — Paul Ridout, Miles Croston and Rhys Partridge — were held, in the small town of Saharanpur, 120 miles north of Delhi, contained paperwork and photographs that police say will enable them to piece together the entire conspiracy and establish who was behind it. India believes Pakistan is implicated.

Israeli army morale slumps

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

A SERIES of humiliating incidents in which Israeli troops have fled under Arab fire or deserted in the occupied West Bank has raised doubts about Israel's once renowned military machine.

Two soldiers were jailed and five others court-martialled for fleeing an outpost in occupied southern Lebanon when it was attacked by Hezbollah fighters. One Israeli staff sergeant was killed.

The debate about whether Israel's army is losing its edge with the approach of peace was started last month by the bungled raid

to free Sergeant Nachson Wachsmann, who was killed by his Islamic kidnappers.

Yesterday fresh evidence emerged about collapsing morale among soldiers. Many admit privately that they are fed up with compulsory army service and repeated annual reserve call-ups of up to 60 days a year — the norm since the foundation of the state in 1948.

The Tel Aviv *Haaretz* reported that, in the occupied West Bank city of Nablus, two soldiers had abandoned their Jeep after a grenade attack. Palestinians claimed to have stolen the

arms that were left behind. Five soldiers in Hebron deserted this week.

"It could be that the fighting spirit has been broken because no one wants to be the last one killed in a war," Yaron London, a columnist, wrote in the daily *Maariv*. Yoav Gilber, a historian at Haifa University, claimed that the spirit of sacrifice which carried Israel through five wars was crumbling. "A system of norms has taken over where it is every man for himself. do not worry about the masses and do not be a sucker," he said.

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Life and love with the golden boy

Kathleen Tynan tells Valerie Grove of her years with the sybarite whose wit dazzled a generation

The word most used of Kathleen Tynan's beauty is "fragile". But how could anyone fragile survive marriage to Kenneth Tynan? The slender form and fine-boned features and the much-tossed mane of blonde hair conceal a robust character who has spent much of the 14 years since her husband's death exhuming their complex marriage and his even more complex corpse.

Seven years ago she wrote an astonishingly objective biography (to be reissued soon) proving that though she had dwindled happily into a wife, she had remained a peerless writer. Editing her late husband's letters has incarcerated her for several years — and now that the result is published ("compulsive and deeply painful reading": see review Page 41) she declares: "I have now resigned from the Tynan industry."

But the book can only revive Tynan's glittering reputation. It explains in his own words why he exerted such a fascination on his Oxford generation, why he had such terrifying power as a critic, and what a precocious show-off he was. The references to obscure films, even while at school in Birmingham, were so arcane she needed an army of researchers to help with the footnotes.

The brilliant *enfant terrible* was already a collector of names at 12, when he wrote asking for Arthur Askey's autograph. There is a letter from Beaverbrook when he was 13: "I think it is splendid of you to have saved El as your contribution to a Spitfire, helping us to drive the Nazis from our skies."

Some letters still elude her, like the ones to Gore Vidal during a hiatus in the friend-

ship, which started when Kathleen dined with Gore at the Mirabelle in order to eat pheasant, and they were joined by Ken, who was asked to leave as he was not wearing a tie. "Gore made no move to join him, and nor did I. I wanted pheasant. Ken was bitterly wounded, and would



The Tynans in 1970

not speak to Gore for two years. Letters went zooming between them about loyalty and disloyalty.

"Trawling for old lovers' letters was interesting. She found the women astonishingly generous. Pauline [White], the first of his many fiancées, gave me everything. Women are much more generous and much less concerned with their image than men are."

Among the most striking are those to Gillian Rowe-Dutton, who was Ken's girlfriend at Oxford until she met (Sir) Peter Parker. One letter to her is full of crazed underlinings and mad, despairing wrath at "your cool, bloody, hateful betrayal." "What's amazing about Ken is these sudden outbursts of extraordinary vulnerability, occasionally you get this unguarded outburst."

The sheer volume of activities in his Oxford days — where he not only edited everything but directed and acted in dozens of plays and starred in Union debates — explains why, as Alan Brien, his Oxford contemporary, memorably said: "If you couldn't be Ken Tynan, you had to be his enemy."

Did she not feel a retrospective jealousy? "Not really. It was such a weird thing, to write about your husband. I was a passionate sleuth, torn between being outsider and insider. When writing the biography, I had to see Nicole [the lover who shared his sado-masochistic tastes], and that was tough."

But the letter book is a different kettle of fish: it's the sunny side of Ken — the little poems to the children on their birthdays, and to Ralph Richardson.

To Olivier he writes that "Germaine Greer is a respected authoress and university teacher" when actually, as Kathleen points out, she was at that time at the Wet Dream festival in Amsterdam being photographed with her legs above her head. "Ken found Germaine comradely, but she challenged him in a way he didn't think women should. He was not a feminist. She's become a kind of Jean Brodie figure now, hasn't she?"

Another striking letter goes on for six pages and is addressed to Sir Michael Balcan, reflecting the colossal output of ideas and work Tynan was engaged in. "Stoppard was very good on this aspect: that Ken wasn't merely a dandy, as some thought, but someone who worked extremely hard."

If anyone doubted Kenneth Tynan's genius for knowing the future better than anybody, they might look at the

forecast he made in 1973: "A super-rich class is being built on top of the existing structure — an international conglomerate of business-rich, drawing on the US and the Common Market — with the aim of keeping the insurgent and overweening middle class in their place, and of decisively depressing the proletariat. Only members of the super-rich (the new feudal class) will be able to keep their head above the decline in the value of money, because they are paid in perks, property, possessions and tax-exempt benefits. This is what will separate them from the rest of us, whose efforts will perforce be dedicated not to changing society but to keeping ourselves from drowning."

And that was a decade before Thatcher.

Kathleen, the daughter of a Canadian broadcaster, met Tynan when she was a reporter on *The Observer*. Tynan, delivering copy one day, took one look and decided to marry her. Never mind that she was a fairly recent bride and he was still married to Elaine Dundy. Last year, at a party at Piers Paul Read's, a man came up to Kathleen and said: "I believe we were once

married." "A very stylish remark I thought," it was Oliver Gates, her deserted ex.

"Ken decided he didn't like girls who got up in the morning. I was a perfect person for him because I didn't mind giving up my job. But about a decade later I decided it was time I got up in the morning and earn some money (a necessary venture both financially and for my sanity). However, I found that with Ken, a working wife had to work with great discretion."

I remark on the expensive lifestyle they managed to achieve, on no apparent funds. They ricocheted between Paris and Mexico, New York and London, endless holidays in Spain or the South of France. "I think that's to do with the Sixties," she said. (They married in 1967, a year when it was always Saturday afternoon in high summer.) "One could wing it."

The Tynans' first big party was draped with fibreglass mannequins in suspender belts. Gore Vidal came, and Richard Harris and Marlon Brando, both drunk. Antonioni lurked in a corner. This was exactly the image of swinging London he hoped to capture in *Blow Up*. "Ken believed one should cut off from the boring bits of

life, and concentrate on the parenthesis. That all the things we consider important, like work, are actually peripheral. Loving and living are what matter. It was Ken's policy to spend everything we earned. He felt contempt for the dutiful citizen."

Loving and living were what mattered — he felt contempt for the dutiful citizen

She supposes the marriage was happy for about eight years. When he went off with Nicole, Kathleen was stunned. "No one had thought fit to reveal to me the great secret of married sexual love, which is that it comes to an end." She felt there was an ice-berg at her centre, and found sanctuary with Dan Topolski. "I don't see why you have a lover just to spite me," said Ken.

Kathleen has finally this year moved out of the house she shared with Tynan, to a small flat in Notting Hill with an evangelical tabernacle on the corner. "And an old man opposite who keeps his fridge in his living room." It is, she says, like living a student life again, "except I have a few pennies. I sit in the window of my bolt-hole, like an old biddy."

Well, hardly. At 55, her social life continues at a glamorous level. When we met, she had just been to Paris to the filmset of *Death And The Maiden*, and was just off to New York for Tina Brown's New Yorker dinner. "Hotel life suits me well," she says. "No errands."

The Tynan industry continues, because she has just sold her screenplay about Louise Brooks to Martin Scorsese. Her fascination with the silent movie star of the 1920s, with the cloche of lacquered black bobbed hair, stems from the fact that Tynan idolised Brooks, "the only star actress I can imagine either being enslaved by or wanting to enslave". When Tynan discovered she was still alive, 71 and reclusive, he materialised at her door and charmed her. After he died, Kathleen got to know her, and

was riveted by her in turn. She has sold the letters to the British Library, which recognises their value in an era when letters are almost completely replaced by fax and telephone. Only rare beings like Dirk Bogarde, she says, continue to write letters worth keeping. "With the dread fax, there can be no privacy. People's feelings have to be so refined in." To placate friends, she included a fax number on her change-of-address card, but no actual fax exists.

In one of Tynan's last letters, to his agent, Swifty Lazar, he outlines his proposed autobiography about his "life as a treacherous pleasure-seeker — through travel, sex, food, and drink, as well as the arts, giving a cast list from Dietrich to Lisagov. "Will this do to be going on with?" he asked. He lived for another year. He ended up with an inhaler for his emphysema, at Santa Monica. "As a man, he was an oddity always; he didn't set out to be anything else. Restless, energetic, vivid, inspired, sui generis," she wrote. He never started the book. Lucky for him that Kathleen was able to get up in the morning and write, shape, and edit the gallimaufry he left behind.

Sharpening up the shock bites

Am I getting old? The average life of the scandal seems to be getting shorter and shorter

It does not seem long ago that radio, newspapers and television were full of what appeared to be most important news. Pneumonic plague was sweeping parts of India. There was an imminent threat of this plague's taking hold in the United Kingdom.

The plague story came around the end of September. October brought the Labour conference in Blackpool. As Tony Blair alternately "triumphed" and was "humiliated" a new story was being born. Somebody who claimed to have slept with the Princess of Wales had split the beans, and a woman had written a book: *Princess in Love*. *Princess in Love* surged and died. Somewhere in the media swell the Indian plague story drowned. I cannot remember headlines announcing the all-clear but, after Mr Blair's roller-coaster ride and *Princess Diana*, it never resurfaced.

And that was before the Dimbleby book on the Prince of Wales. This row, which apparently signalled the end of the monarchy, lasted a full week. I believe the book is still being serialised, but interest has switched to another apocalypse.

Our entire political system is being engulfed in a wave of sleaze. Democracy totters. The newspapers dig around, mostly in the ash of the 1980s, for cinders with which to keep this fire glowing. Somewhere during the fuss, one of the tabloids did track down Major Hewitt, but nobody was much interested.

Now the sleaze seems to be subsiding too. It lasted two weeks, during which many hotel bills appeared in serious

newspapers. It must subside fast for Morton's new book about Princess Diana is on the verge of publication. I give this one four days at the most.

And I still await news of the plague. Interestingly, a Conservative MP has grabbed the turbulent weeks behind us to come out as a gay man: the first Conservative MP ever to do so. He achieved three paragraphs on page 23 of *The News of the World*.

Am I growing old? The policemen are getting no younger, but the scandals are getting shorter and the headlines taller. The nation approaches Wisdom faster than it knows, for the time cannot be far off when the headlines take up the whole front page, nothing lasts longer than a day, and nobody takes any notice at all.

Could it be that the theory of the sound bite is of wider application than at first appreciated? I should like to propose the theory of the shock bite. Just as we are no longer judged capable of concentrating on an argument within a story for longer than 30 seconds, we are now judged incapable of concentrating on the story itself for longer than a fortnight. Like the theory of the sound bite, the theory of the shock bite is self-justifying: once we become accustomed to a new



MATTHEW PARRIS

scandal every few days, we lose the capacity to concentrate on any story that is new moving fast, into, across and out of our vision. If I am right, then we should consider how to organise our shocks better, giving ample but not excessive time to each. Constitutional reform is needed.

After the Queen's Speech opening Parliament and purporting to set the agenda, why not offer a similarly dignified backdrop to the setting of the real agenda? I propose that the Queen's Speech be followed, from the steps of the Throne in the Lords, by the Media Speech. It should set out Fleet Street's plans for "stories" in the session ahead.

Some may think the Media Speech should be delivered by a senior editor, or (according to a rota) the proprietor of Associated Newspapers, the Mirror Group or News International. But I think an elevation above daily controversy comparable to what Her Majesty enjoys would best be afforded by asking the Press Association's Chris Moncrieff, recently retired from the Westminster Lobby, to do the job. Mr Moncrieff would wear one of his famously crumpled suits, donned in the Robing Rooms.

"Members of the House of Lords," Mr Moncrieff would say, after a

funkey bearing his Speech had backed down the steps away from him, "my Media will visit the Hilton hotel in Rwanda, the Sheraton in Johannesburg, and the sites of a number of major disasters..."

"My Media will feature a short controversy on a book by Morton followed by a modest period of speculation upon the likely contents of the Budget. There will be a brief scare story about pensioners dying of starvation over Christmas. After this will come another scare, lasting about a week, concerning a fearsome new breed of dog whose identity has yet to be revealed..."

There will be concern about Prince Edward's love life for a long weekend early in January, followed by speculation about Mr Blair's, or John Major's, or Paddy Ashdown's marriage, or all three. "In February, during a cold snap yet to be identified, experts will speculate that the Earth is suffering global cooling. This will yield to a sustained controversy lasting a week, over the future of the European Fighter Aircraft..."

"March will bring a weekend of rumours about rabid bats in the Channel Tunnel, and a flurry of speculation about the future of Mr Blair, who will be said by my Media to have made a disappointing start. This in turn will yield to a challenge to Mr Ashdown's leadership of the Liberal Democrats, which my Media will organise..."

Other stories will be laid before you."

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A new way of stopping dandruff in Parliament... the curious nature of Asperger's syndrome... oestrogen cream and the complexion



PARLIAMENTARIANS are statistically more likely to have trouble with their scalps than their consciences. For every member whose reputation has been damaged by shady consultancy and the misuse of privileges, there are dozens who suffer from dandruff, which is acknowledged to be one of the minor health hazards of becoming an MP. Fortunately, scaly scalps are easier to cure than greed, and even as the Prime Minister was announcing his plans to counteract sleaziness in public life, a new scalp solution, Dovonex calcipotriol, was being marketed. This should help psoriasis, an occasional cause of scaly scalps and therefore sometimes of a severe dandruff.

There has been argument for many years about the basic cause of dandruff. The manufacturers of medicated shampoos are determined that it is the result of infection, others have maintained that it is the manifestation of an eczematous-type skin condition, seborrhoeic dermatitis. Its prevalence in the House of Commons would fit in with either explanation. The fungi responsible might well flourish in the warm atmosphere of the House, but equally the tension of public life and public speaking would do little to quieten a skin which is liable to respond to stress by becoming inflamed.

In fact, the argument is unimportant. Simple dandruff can be controlled by regular washing with Nizoral, a fungicidal shampoo, and if need be any residual inflammation cleared by the use of Betnovate scalp application. Nizoral shampoo, available

Scalps at risk in the House



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

like Dovonex on prescription, should initially be used twice weekly for two to four weeks, and thereafter, depending on the patient's response, either once a week or once a fortnight. Occasionally a patient's skin is sensitive to the fungicide and the treatment has to be discontinued.

The scalp is more often affected by psoriasis than any other part of the body. A recent survey reported in the *General Practitioner* magazine showed that 81 per cent of sufferers from psoriasis suffered from the condition in their scalps.

This can be treated with local applications of the steroid Betnovate or Dermovate, but Dovonex is steroid-free. Dovonex should be applied twice-daily but it should not be used on the face, and hands should be washed after its use. Not more than one bottle (60ml) should be used weekly, as its overuse can result in raised blood-calcium levels.

Dovonex cream has been available for some time for the treatment of psoriasis affecting other parts of the body. When it is used together with lotion for the hair, not more than one 30mg tube of cream should be used in a week.

Obsessive act



THE FATAL stabbing by a 13-year-old boy of Phyllis Saville, an elderly widow, as she was going to church at Wimborne Minster, has drawn attention to Asperger's syndrome.

Asperger's varies enormously: at its most benign, it may in early life give a child a rather beguiling old-fashioned intensity. Later, in adulthood, its symptoms may be no more antisocial than those which might be caused by the personality traits as displayed by Professor Henry Higgins, the obsessional academic in Shaw's *Pygmalion*.

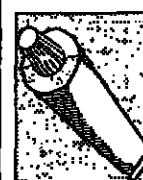
In that play, Professor Higgins, a classic representation of the mad professor with strange mannerisms, showed two of the characteristic symptoms of the syndrome. These are an overriding and obsessional interest in a narrow subject, coupled with emotional detachment and a lack of interest in personal relationships — as exemplified by his indifference to the feelings of Eliza as he restructured her life. If patients are intelligent, their enthusiasm for a particular interest, and the exclusion of the usual distractions of everyday life, may result in apparently successful careers.

At its worst, Asperger's can be as bad as it is in the case of the Dorset boy. The court was told that throughout his life he had become obsessively interested in

one subject after another, many of them macabre. He found coping with human relationships impossible and, bereft of the normal skills used in interpersonal communications, tended to resort to violence when frustrated.

There is no single successful treatment for Asperger's; each symptom has to be treated individually. But recently the use of 5HT reuptake inhibitors, which have been useful in treating other forms of obsessive behaviour, have also been demonstrated to be of some benefit in certain cases of the syndrome.

Facial aid?



THE USE of vaginal pessaries or creams containing oestrogen is a long-established way of treating atrophy of the genitalia, which is associated with menopause. Many forms of oestrogen, even if applied locally, can also stimulate the endometrium, the uterus lining, and may lead to malignant change in

it. *Mims Index* suggests that progestones should also be given if this treatment is to continue for more than three months. A few years ago, an unusual side-effect of the local use of oestrogens was reported when it was noted that occasionally the partner of one of the women developed signs of feminisation.

General Practitioner magazine reports that at a recent conference in Montreal, Austrian dermatologists were advocating the use of oestrial face creams to improve a woman's complexion. In a small trial involving post-menopausal women, their facial skin became thicker, better hydrated, more elastic and wrinkles significantly shallower after its use. Dr Jolanta Schmidt, of the University of Vienna, claimed that none of the treated patients showed side-effects. There was no mention of their partners. Dr Jean Ginsberg, a consultant endocrinologist at the Royal Free Hospital, cautions that oestrial is the only oestrogen that would be safe to use in this way and that any other could also cause a thickening of the endometrium, with the remote possibility of cancer.



Gayle Feldman: discovered she had cancer when she was eight months pregnant

'If I'm a cancer gene carrier, what happens to my family?'

Gayle Feldman on the agonising decisions faced by a volunteer for genetic research into breast cancer

Three years ago, when I was 40 and in the eighth month of a first, much desired and difficult-to-achieve pregnancy, I discovered that I had breast cancer, the disease that had killed my mother at 47 after five harrowing years. Her mother, in turn, had died of lung cancer in her fifties, never having smoked a cigarette in her life, and the doctors now speculate that my grandmother's cancer might have started in the breast. My great-grandmother also died relatively young of cancer: nobody is alive to tell us what kind.

So I was not surprised when one of my doctors phoned the other day and asked if I would participate in a breast cancer gene study. We both knew that I was just the sort of person the researchers were looking for. In a few weeks, I will go to the hospital and have some blood drawn, and the map of my genes will be scrutinised for long hours under the microscope. One breast cancer gene has just been identified, and researchers are close to isolating a second. What does this mean for women like me, and families like mine?

The test administrators have said that, once they have done with peering under the microscope, I can choose to know or not know whether my cancer was indeed genetically linked. Although they reckoned from the beginning that heredity played a part — given the young age at which both my mother and I were diagnosed — nobody could be absolutely sure. After all, it is estimated that an inherited gene is the determining factor in at most 10 per cent of the 182,000 new breast cancer

cases diagnosed in America each year. It is conceivable that my family could simply have suffered an extraordinary, appalling run of bad luck.

Now, it is possible for me to know for sure.

When I received the diagnosis and the news that the cancer was in two places in my left breast, my surgeon said a mastectomy was necessary. She then said that a youngish woman like me, with a family history like mine, might want to have the other breast off as well. Within the space of ten days, I discovered I had cancer, I had a baby induced five weeks early, I had a surgical biopsy, and I was about to have a mastectomy; shocked out of my mind, I could not face the prospect of having two.

A year later, though, when my baby was flourishing and I

was seemingly recovered, my surgeon and I had a little chat. "What are the odds?" I asked her. "I want to know the numbers." Since one of the kinds of cells that was found in my left breast indicates a tendency to develop cancer in the other breast — and because of my relative youth and family history, of course — the number she quoted back at me was "at least 50 per cent". Six weeks later, I had a second, prophylactic mastectomy of the other side.

So, at this point, I've had breast cancer and have done all I can to minimise the risks of a recurrence. I am a woman who no longer has breasts. Why bother wanting to know whether it was written in the genes?

Well, for one thing, I have a child. When the baby was born, my younger sister's first reaction was, "Thank good-

ness it's a boy". We all knew what she meant. But men do occasionally develop breast cancer. I want to know for the sake of my three-year-old son. Also, I have two sisters and two nieces.

But although, often, there is relief in knowledge, there will be no relief should I find out that I harbour the gene. Oh yes, early detection saves lives — it saved mine. And what better impetus to monitor oneself rigorously than to know that the gene is in the family? But some cancers are not found until already far advanced.

If I carry the gene, many doctors would recommend that my sisters be tested. If they are carriers, should they have prophylactic mastectomies, too? It is an agonising decision to have to contemplate. I have been there, and I know.

And what of the children? It is obscene to think of them harbouring the gene, as obscene and enraging as the thought of a woman growing a baby and cancer within her at the same time.

I applaud the work of the gene researchers, and will do my small bit to help them along. But as breast cancer awareness month gets underway, this particular survivor is aware of the fact that isolating the gene only serves to open Pandora's box ever wider. The dilemma that many women will face will surely tax not only themselves and their families, but the doctors whose counsel they seek. The only way that the box can be closed forever — or better yet, thrown open with nothing inside left to fear — is if a lot more money, time and effort are expended so that cure and prevention are found.

Gayle Feldman's book *You Don't Have to Be Your Mother: A Breast Cancer Memoir* is published by Hamish Hamilton this week (£10.99).

Storm brews in a beer-cup

Just when moderate drinkers thought the coast was clear, those killjoys at the World Health Organisation have weighed in with a warning. "The less you drink, the better," asserts Hans Emblad, director of the WHO's Programme on Substance Abuse.

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The WHO's latest edict on drinking flies in the face of the facts

In a statement that has had researchers scratching their heads in puzzlement.

On heart disease he says: "Only very low consumption, of the order of one drink every other day, is liable to reduce the risk compared with total abstinence." He adds: "There is no indication that higher consumption has a similar effect, whereas above two drinks a day this risk certainly increases."

But last month, in one of the most comprehensive surveys ever carried out, Sir Richard Doll, Professor Richard Peto and colleagues from Oxford showed that in a 13-year follow-up of 12,000 doctors, the lowest death rate from all causes was among those who averaged one to two drinks a day — one sixth lower than among total abstainers.

Indeed, Mr Emblad need look no further than a technical report published earlier this year by the WHO itself, based on advice from a scientific group assembled by the organisation. This concludes: "Moderate drinking (one to three drinks a day) provides a moderate protective effect against cardiovascular disease, compared with abstinence and heavy drinking."

The scientific group concludes by saying that there is probably no need for comprehensive epidemiological studies "since the nature of the relationship between alcohol and cardiovascular disease has been established". Mr Emblad was unrepentant yesterday, although he did modify a statement in the WHO press release that suggested the claim about the benefits of alcohol had not been the result of rigorous scientific research "but is to a large extent inspired by commercial purposes".

"That's not at all what we intended to say," Mr Emblad admits. "We're not questioning the seriousness of the studies that have been done. What we meant is that the results of those studies are being used for commercial purposes, to help sell alcohol." The WHO statement was, he said, a concerted effort by

the organisation to make it clear that it was not in favour of drinking — "but under certain circumstances, for certain groups, it seems clear that alcohol can have positive effects".

The problem, he says, is that while alcohol consumption in western countries is declining, there is a concerted and successful campaign going on to market it in developing countries. "They have the same problem there with alcohol as Western Europe does with drugs," he says.

Anybody who really wants to cut heart disease, he says, should avoid smoking, do more exercise, and eat fewer fats. "Those already taking these precautions are unlikely to reduce their risk still further with light drinking."

Again, however, the evidence does not appear to support him. Studies of marathon runners, who eat well and certainly get enough exercise, show that moderate drinking reduces cholesterol levels, which might well mean lower heart deaths.

George Winstanley of the Portman Group, the drinks industry group that monitors research into alcohol, was unworried by Mr Emblad's intervention. "I have a list of 66 studies showing benefits of moderate drinking," he says. "If people do enjoy two to three drinks a day, there is no reason for them to cut down."

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Janet Daley



■ The planners who built out-of-town supermarkets failed to realise the social importance of going shopping

Where and how do you do your shopping? A question that would once have been on the women's pages has become hard political news. For so long, no one seemed to see that retailing and entrepreneurial activity are at the heart of local life. Now that the dereliction of Britain's neighbourhoods is epidemic, a House of Commons select committee has had the bright idea that where you put shops actually affects people's lives. Even now, fashionable opinion-formers condemn consumerism as the diametric opposite of "community": social values are breaking down because people are obsessed with purchasing power. The last thing any idealist wants to talk about is shopping.

Karl Marx would have laughed at the naïveté. He knew that economic activity — the buying and selling (or bartering) of goods and labour — is the lifeblood of any society. Thus it is very important what arrangements are made for those exchanges. Traditionally, the places for these culturally defining acts grew organically: markets were born at crossroads, trade revolved around ports. It was the most appalling hubris to think government could simply relocate these vital fixtures by fiat, without causing social devastation.

But remodel they did, with totalitarian tidy-mindedness, and all in the name of enlightened reconstruction. The historical layers of ancient towns were torn away. Living, working and shopping were compartmentalised, splitting daily life into segregated parts. What has happened to provincial towns and cities, especially those with mainly working-class populations, is too well-documented to rehearse here. Let us talk about the smaller scale damage done in almost every suburban high street.

The out-of-town shopping centres which the select committee indicts are only the most extreme cases of planning blight. Every monster supermarket with a multi-storey car park cuts down a forest of butchers, bakers and greengrocers. Having dispatched the competition, it then changes what it likes for the limited range of foods which it decides are most popular. (My enormous local Waitrose will not sell veal or calves' liver because "not enough people buy them".) Sainsbury's shut its small high street shops 20 years ago in favour of supermarkets to which most people must drive. And this narrowing of possibilities is defended in the name of "choice" — even by the Consumers' Association.

What an absurd condition we find ourselves in after 50 years of social planning. The Home Secretary, desperate to restore domestic security, asks us to walk our deserted local streets "with purpose". But there was a time when almost everyone walked the streets, with various purposes, and their multitudinous presence was its own form of community policing. Even the most thick-headed road lobbyists now seem to realise the evils of the car culture, but will no one speak for the positive virtues of the pedestrian culture which largely revolved around local shops? The reason why shops will always be a magnet for community life is because real things happen in them: life's necessities and luxuries are procured with real wealth. They are not contrived outposts of the social services, like youth clubs and pensioners' centres planted in council concrete.

The leader of the Opposition chants the word "community" like an incantation, knowing that it stands for everything we feel ourselves to have lost. Will he be prepared to admit how responsible socialist utopianism has been for the collapse of the economically viable neighbourhood?

No one is left on the streets but the vulnerable

But now that the damage is done, what would it take to get people out of their atomised capsules and back on to the pavements (and the buses) where they can talk to each other?

There are things we could all do to regenerate neighbourhood culture. Working women and those with small children — not to mention the elderly — would be delighted with local shops that offered a delivery service. The sort of schoolchildren who do paper rounds could be employed after school to bike round groceries.

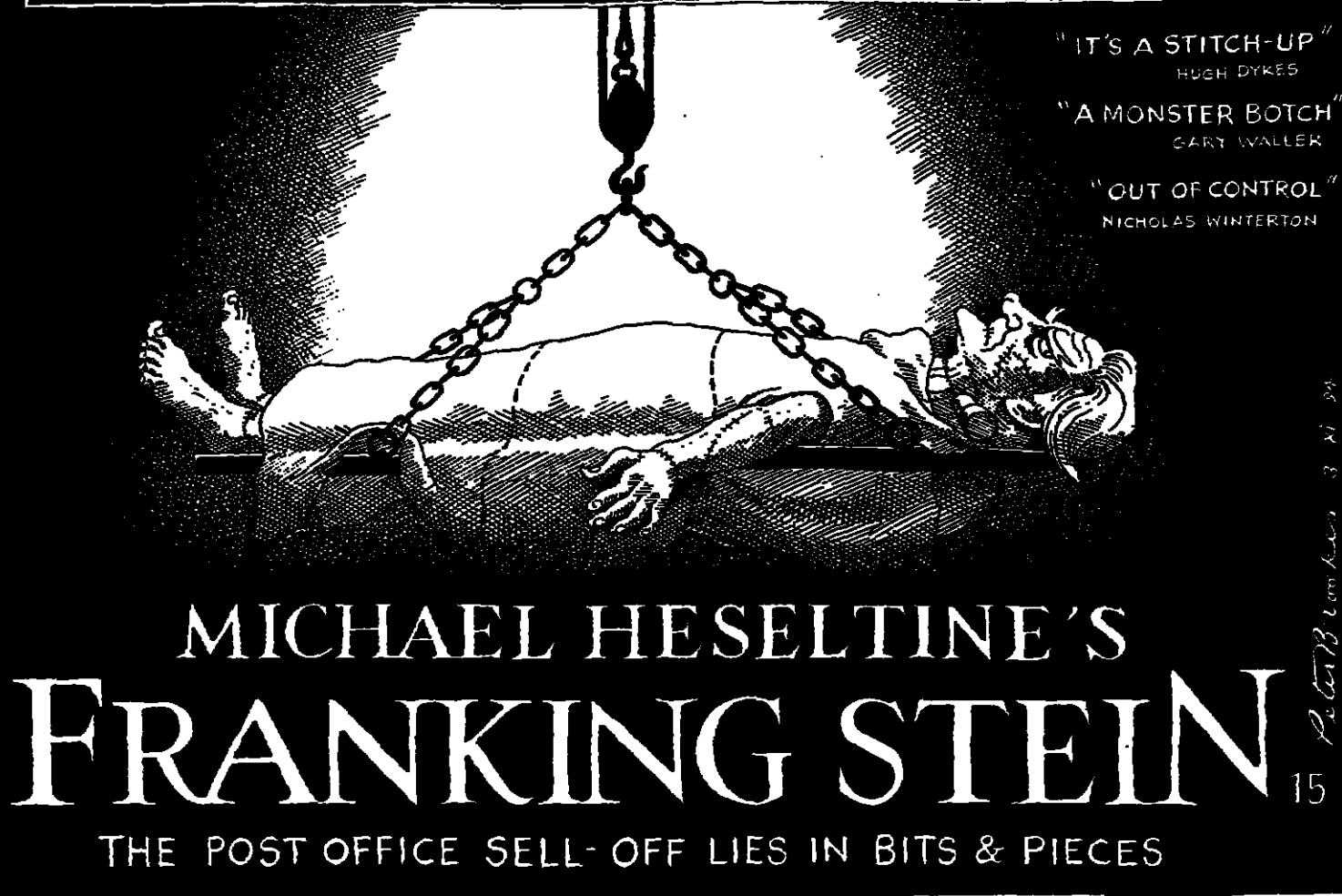
Children need more contact with older generations. Why shouldn't every comprehensive school keep a register of pupils prepared to baby-sit, to run errands for the elderly or to do odd jobs? Clinics could help women set up baby-sitting circles so that they could use public transport unencumbered by toddlers. Residents' associations could press for short-hop bus routes with frequent request stops: the kind of service that is most needed for car-less shopping and school runs.

What is crucial to the re-inforcement of community is physical commerce with familiar people: countless casual meetings, carried out in the course of one's everyday transactions. Politicians of all parties deplore the collapse of adult supervision in the streets, but hardly anyone is left on the streets apart from the vulnerable: the very young and the very old. The respectable adult world roars past in its cars leaving gangs of youths to vandalise a desolate townscape.



Boothroyd: sacrifices

WARNING: CERTAIN SCENES MAY PROVE DISTURBING TO BACKBENCHERS



Bring the press to heel

In constitutional terms, we ought to feel a little grateful to Peter Preston, the editor of *The Guardian*. He has made his claim for press privilege in so blatant a form that no one can doubt what it is he is claiming. He believes that the press is above the law. His claim will inevitably be rejected, as it was by both major parties in the House of Commons yesterday, despite some interventions from Labour members.

British constitutional history has had to face a similar issue repeatedly in the past. One section of society or another has claimed to be above the law, and has, for a time, been powerful enough to trample on the rights of everyone else. This was the claim of the trade unions before 1979: trade union leaders argued that no laws restraining trade union activities could be passed, or would be obeyed. It is now hard to remember the arrogance of the trade unions in the later 1970s, after their destruction of the Heath Government in 1974. Both governments and businessmen were afraid of them, and thought that there was no way in which they could be resisted. Arthur Scargill thought the same: he thought he was invincible. Look at him now.

Before that, several groups had put themselves above the law. Each time, the great power was defeated and the ultimate authority of law and Parliament was successfully reasserted.

Peter Preston has claimed that an editor, in pursuit of what he considers an important story, is free to break the law, and that it is for him to judge whether the story is sufficiently in the public interest to justify the breach. In fact *The Guardian* committed a serious crime. The newspaper sent a forged fax to the Ritz Hotel in Paris, on Jonathan Aitken's House of Commons notepad, purporting to be signed by his private secretary, a civil servant. This was done in order to confirm information that had been provided by the proprietor of the Ritz Hotel, Mohamed Al-Fayed. The fax would not have deceived Mr Al-Fayed, who was a party to the conspiracy, but as Paul Johnson observed here yesterday, it must have been intended to deceive somebody.

There are several possible criminal offences involved. There is the theft or misuse of the notepad on which the forgery was based. There is the forgery itself. There may be other charges which could be brought on the grounds of trickery, or of obtain-

Journalists are behaving like trade unionists of the 1970s; but they must learn that they are not above the law

ing confidential information by false pretences. If such a crime were committed by someone other than a journalist, perhaps by a bookmaker wanting to find out whether a horse was going to run, it would on conviction normally be a custodial offence; it might be mitigated — as in this case — where the criminal was a first offender and no personal gain was involved. Forgery is no light matter in British law; I remember that Peter Baker, a young Tory member of Parliament, was sentenced to seven years for forgery in the 1950s.

It is evident that Peter Preston and many other journalists think that what he did was justified, that it is proper for journalists to forge documents when they think fit. He has admitted that the use of House of Commons notepaper may have been a blunder, and that perhaps *The Guardian* should have avoided that. This shows that he does not even now understand what he has done. Forgery is forgery; a forged letter from Mr Aitken would be no less criminal if it were headed with his Lord North Street address, rather than the House of Commons. Yet Mr Preston is not alone among journalists in failing to understand the supremacy of the law.

A characteristic comment came from Ian Aitken, the former *Guardian* political correspondent. He could be called a journalists' journalist, an experienced professional, with deep roots in left-wing journalism and a deserved reputation for the quality of his work. "Last week has been a good one for *The Guardian* and for its editor, Peter Preston. They have done nothing wrong. I think it was the right thing to do. It was and is in the public interest," Ian Aitken clearly believes that the pursuit of a story in what he conceives to be the public interest justifies a journalist in committing a felony. Like Mr Preston, he is confusing law with subterfuge — which may itself

William Rees-Mogg

be distasteful — with a crime. Hugo Young is a senior figure, regarded with some awe by young journalists; he writes a much admired column in *The Guardian*. He is the present chairman of the Guardian Trust. His comment was: "The trust never interferes with what the editor does. That is the whole point of being a trust." This surely implies that the purpose of the trust is not to maintain the integrity of the newspaper, but to back the editor, right or wrong.

Most of our national institutions — the monarchy, the government, Parliament, the law, the Church — enjoy less public confidence than they did. Perhaps no institution is now as unpopular as the press, and broadcasters are almost as unpopular as newspapermen. The cheat, the bully and the hypocrite — that is how the journalist is now all too often seen. We are no longer accepted as doing our proper professional job, but are regarded as people who abuse our power. Quite apart from breaches of the law, methods of deceitful entrapment (such as are frequent in the tabloids and were used by *The Sunday Times* in the parliamentary questions case) may be lawful but are odious to the public.

Modern journalism has a nihilistic side. Channel 4, under the control of Michael Grade, is probably the most destructive television channel. Whatever things are true, whatever things are honest, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, spit on these things.

This negative culture will be fully demonstrated by a forthcoming programme on Mother Teresa. She has devoted her long life to God and to the poor, the hungry, the sick and the dying. On November 8, Channel 4

will be broadcasting a personal attack on her. The title speaks for itself: *Hell's Angel: Mother Teresa*. I have not previewed this programme, but a spokesman for the channel, Barrie Hills, claims that it "explodes the image that for 25 years has had the rich, the famous and the fraudulent queuing up for their share of reflected glory." There is a smell of evil about this hatred of virtue, this compulsive desire to denigrate a woman who is holy and good. I doubt if those who are dying in the streets of Calcutta can rely for supper on Michael Grade.

Parliament is very hostile to the press, because most politicians feel that they have not been treated fairly. Members of the royal family have been treated even worse: they have been spied upon and lied about. Jonathan Dimbleby's book may well prove a blunder for the Prince of Wales, but the press's treatment of the royal family has indeed been a scandal and has made it extraordinarily difficult for the monarchy to function as it should. In this, the broadsheets have often been as excessive as the tabloids, and television has endlessly followed up the sensations.

In such a situation the ordinary working journalist feels almost helpless as the victim. The chief sub-editor of *The Western Daily Press* has never forged a fax in his life, or spied from the bushes on the Prince of Wales, yet he may be professionally damaged by the deeds of those who have. Sooner or later, like the trade unionists of the 1970s, journalists will find that their freedoms are curtailed in reaction to the excesses of a relatively small number of their more powerful colleagues. A regulated press will be less free and less efficient, and it will certainly be less pleasant to work in, but if it comes, journalists will have brought it on themselves.

The question is essentially one of trust. Journalists have to face this reality: we have lost the trust of the public, through our own fault. So long as we behave both arrogantly and ruthlessly, we shall not regain that public trust. Journalists have to obey the law, just as we expect politicians or policemen to do. The culture of journalism has been distorted by an apparent belief that we are the masters now. In fact, the journalist, like the politician, is only another citizen with a special kind of job.

Algeria on the brink

Alistair Horne on the threat of fundamentalism

This week, Algeria commemorated the 40th anniversary of the beginning of its war of liberation against colonial France. By the end of that 7½-year war, perhaps a million of a population of 10 million were dead. Many of them were killed by their own people in savage internecine warfare and revenge killings. Of the nine rebels, the *new historiens* who launched the revolt in November 1954, three were killed by the French and three by their own people. Of the survivors, former President Ben Bella lives heavily guarded in Algeria; Hocine Ait Ahmed is back in refuge, once again in Switzerland.

Yet despite the victory over the might of colonial France, Algeria's promise has been repeatedly, and tragically, thwarted. Today, the country is as bloodily divided as it was 40 years ago. Speaking in London this week, Ait Ahmed, possibly Algeria's most distinguished moderate politician, spoke on the ominous topic: "Is it too late to prevent a civil war in Algeria?"

It may well be. Informed journalists on the Maghreb certainly believe so. According to Ait Ahmed, 33,000 casualties have been inflicted in army reprisals and revenge killings by fundamentalist extremists over the past few years. In June 1992, terrorists gunned down the head of state, 73-year-old Mohamed Boudiaf, one of the respected *new historiens* who had been brought back from 21 years in exile to head the military government and keep the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) at bay.

As in 1954-62, it is the simple Algerian populace that is suffering most. In what looks like a deliberate attempt by the fundamentalists to isolate Algeria from Europe and wreck its precarious economy, many foreigners have been murdered. Most of the rest of the foreign community have left.

Algeria's high hopes after independence, went sour almost from the moment Ben Bella was appointed the first President in 1962. Ben Bella had been inspired by the French in an extraordinary *coup de main* in 1956, and spent six years in French jails. He was then deported in 1963 by the warlike fundamentalist leader, Houari Boumedienne, for leaning too far towards Soviet philosophy, and suffered a further 14 years of imprisonment, at the hands of his own countrymen.

During the austere military era of Boumedienne, other wartime leaders of the regime were hunted down in exile. The tone was markedly Islamic. Algerian women who fought along with the *Moudjahid* freedom fighters had come to expect a marked degree of emancipation, but the clock was put back and *haïk* (or veil) returned. Though Algeria was rich in oil, Boumedienne made grandiose economic blunders in the name of socialism, from which the country still suffers. But at least Boumedienne established Algeria as a forceful voice, bridging the Third World and Arab councils.

When he died — suddenly, but of natural causes — in 1979, he was succeeded by a mild-mannered wartime comrade, Chadli Benjedid, and when I visited in 1984, I found a much less oppressive society than ten years previously. Algeria was reasonably prosperous, despite its appalling demographic explosion (the average age was 19).

A large number of French technicians had been encouraged to remain. People seemed to be free from fear, though there was a wariness about fundamentalism spreading from Morocco or Tunisia.

Instead, it is in Algeria itself that fundamentalism has taken root most strongly. In 1992, when elections were held, the government — fearful of a fundamentalist victory — cancelled the second round. Speaking at London University, Ait Ahmed, who although in his mid-seventies is potentially still the best hope Algeria has of democratic liberalism, made an eloquent plea for reconciliation and for free elections. Movingly, he asked whether "violence is inescapable for Algerians". But his chances of returning are slim. It was even suggested that his trip to London was a risk, and fierce harracking by fundamentalists gave a fair indication of the passions that are still running high.

Since then, however, the Algerian government, under pressure from the FIS, has announced its intention to hold fresh national elections. But will they be fair and unfudged? Observers of the Maghreb are doubtful. The threat of civil war followed by a fundamentalist takeover in the world's tenth largest country is menacingly close. And Algeria is strategically important, for if it succumbs, the resistance of the rest of the North African Maghreb and Egypt (which is already embroiled in a struggle against terrorism) would be gravely weakened. Nor would the spread of fundamentalism stop there. With its large emigrant population of Algerian workers, France too feels vulnerable to the wind of change now blowing across what was once the jewel in her crown.

Alistair Horne's history of the civil war, *A Savage War of Peace*, is published by Papermac at £16.99.

On the Tiller

MADAM SPEAKER does not approve. Not only is she taking a firm hand in the cash-for-questions furore, but the feisty headmistress of the Commons, Betty Boothroyd, has refused to co-operate with a biography of her which has just been handed over to the publishers. Despite her objections, journalist Paul Routledge set out to discover just how saucy is the past of the former Tiller Girl.

"She wouldn't help me," sighs Routledge, who previously penned a biography of Arthur Scargill. "She said she did not want a book written about her until she had done something more." So, apart from her political colleagues, he disdained at length about Betty's teenage years with the unlikely-sounding Dohrayne Vernon, an expert on the high-kicking Tiller Girls, with whom our esteemed Speaker was once (albeit briefly) associated.

Routledge faithfully reports Boothroyd's early struggles. But he also discovered, I learn, that the glamorous Yorkshire-born MP, who turned 65 last month, has been wooed by a formidable array of public figures in her time, although she never married. In

turn, one of her pin-ups was John F. Kennedy, for whose presidential campaign she worked in 1960. "No one has realised how far she's come to be the first woman Speaker," declares a Labour insider. "Or, how much she has had to give up to get there."

● Hot money, I predict, will be riding on Luca Cumanini's horses, presently acclimatising to the Kentucky air before the Breeders' Cup races. "For the last ten years all

our horses have been bedded on newspaper — *The Times*," sniffs the Newmarket-based trainer, who took a stock of 35 kilo bales of shredded newspaper with him. "If they win a big race they switch to *The Financial Times* — so they can read where to put their money."

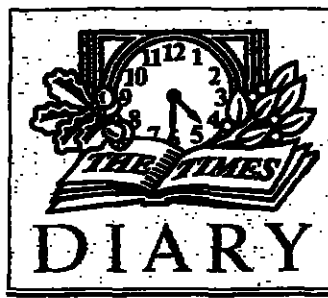
Falling out

SIR PETER HALL was just one of Sir John Gielgud's old friends celebrating the renaming of the Globe Theatre yesterday. But Hall, whose *Hamlet* will be the first production at the Gielgud Theatre, is haunted by a recollection of how he nearly killed the actor.

"It will be my abiding memory of him," shudders Hall. "It was 2am, and we were in a technical rehearsal of *The Tempest* at the Old Vic. Suddenly John disappeared — he'd fallen through the trapdoor. There was a pause and then this beautiful voice drifted up: 'I'm all right.' I was terrified I might have been responsible for his end."

Guessed guests

A RATHER GRAND oil painting will be handed to the Corporation of London later this month to commemorate the lunch, two years ago, at which the Queen referred to



her annus horribilis. As he munched his sandwiches between a pillar, artist Andrew Festing sketched Her Majesty, John Major and the other eminent Guildhall diners. But Festing admits that the 8½ by 4½ picture may have its faults. "I had a good overall view," he says, "but the top table was furthest away and the view was obscured. So I've had to use my memory for some of the top-table guests."

Forget-me-not

THE Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, is eagerly awaited in Dudley during the forthcoming by-election. For with hindsight, Clarke may rue his quip last year, during the furore about raising VAT, that he did not feel bound by commitments made in "stray speeches made on a wet Wednesday evening

in Dudley during the middle of an election campaign."

The shadow Chancellor, Gordon Brown, grins menacingly in anticipation: "I'm looking forward to meeting him there — preferably on a wet Wednesday evening."

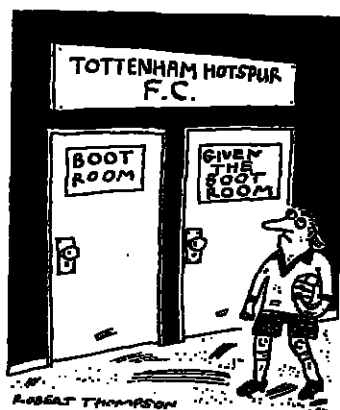
Digging in

ONE PIECE of good news for Conservative whips today: outspoken right-winger Sir George Gardiner will not star in the forthcoming elections to the influential 1922 Committee of Tory backbenchers. His name, I hear, is not on the slate drawn up by the 92 Group, a band of entrenched Thatcherites.

The bad news for Chief Whip Richard Ryder is Gardiner's sanguine acceptance of the omission. It will, he tells friends, give him more leeway to object to the legislation increasing Britain's contributions to the EU budget.

Piano man

GEORGE MELLY was beering about in his usual exuberant suit with a racy pair of spats on Tuesday night at the Tate Gallery. At a reception to view works by the four shortlisted Turner Prize candidates, he was mesmerised by Rebecca Horn's *Exploding*



Piano — a sculpture suspended upside down in one of the main galleries. "It goes off with a bang periodically, and I've missed it twice," he mused, staring rapidly upwards.

● Sam Whitbread, the millionaire brewer, is under investigation by police over allegations that badgers have been snared on his Bedfordshire estate. The case will be carefully followed by the local branch of the Wildlife Trust, which opposes trapping, for Whitbread is their patron.

P.H.S



STAMP OF FAILURE

The Government is letting down the Post Office and its users

The proposals for Post Office privatisation which Michael Heseltine will put to the Cabinet today are such a dilute version of his original plan that he must be wondering if the reform is still worth the effort. Yesterday the President of the Board of Trade unveiled his latest compromise formula to the Cabinet industry sub-committee, suggesting that 40 per cent of the Post Office be sold off, 40 per cent left in public hands and 20 per cent placed in trust. This does not seem to have satisfied the group of Tory backbenchers resisting privatisation. The whole scheme looks dangerously close to collapse.

Such a failure would be deeply regrettable. It is true that Post Office privatisation would be technically complex, requiring a fine blend of regulation and market freedom. Legitimate questions have been raised about the impact of change on the national rate for letters and on the network of local sub-post offices. Yet Mr Heseltine answered these points more than adequately in June's Green Paper. The Country Division of the Post Office would stay in public hands, while 51 per cent of the Royal Mail would be sold. The universal service and national price of stamps would be controlled by a regulator. This option ought to be acceptable to almost all parties in the dispute.

Karely, indeed, has a public body sought privatisation so enthusiastically. The managers of the Post Office have long argued that increased competition and technological innovation in the communications sector have made change inevitable. They recognise the need to attract investment in a way the Post Office cannot do while constrained by Treasury borrowing rules. Critics of privatisation argue that the current profitability of the Post Office strengthens the case for leaving it be. Wiser heads accept that the opposite is true. As

communications companies proliferate, the Post Office's competitive advantage will be gradually eroded. It should be sold when its attractions to private investors are still high.

The history of this policy has been an object lesson in how not to present a potentially controversial reform. Politicians who would bring about radical change must identify the concerns which their supporters, opponents and ordinary voters are likely to have and find ways of confronting these anxieties. After 15 years of sweeping reform, it might be thought that the Conservative Party would have grasped this point. But its current actions suggest otherwise.

During the first privatisations, the Government appeared confident, innovative and populist, keen to sell the virtues of change to an initially sceptical public. During the early stages of rail and Post Office privatisation, in contrast, ministers have often seemed unpersuaded themselves of the policies they have been trying to popularise. Neither reform has been successfully presented as a potential boon to the consumer. Instead, the public has been left with the impression of a dithering Government, nervously plotting the future of essential services in private.

This impression cannot help Conservative electoral prospects. It also takes the pressure off the Labour Party. Tony Blair's approach to privatisation remains muddled, caught between the moderniser's attraction to successful Tory policies and the old Labour instinct that public ownership is best. He still has far to travel before he can be judged a safe custodian of Conservative privatisation reforms. Yet this point has been obscured by the Government's own loss of faith in its principles. Mr Heseltine has little time before the Queen's Speech to resolve the future of the Post Office: restoring an air of conviction to policy is an even more urgent task.

NO PRICE ON SOVEREIGNTY

Menem should not risk diplomatic gains by electoral ploys

President Carlos Menem's £1 million proposal to each Falkland islander willing to accept Argentine sovereignty has a characteristically populist ring. With a difficult election ahead, he badly needs his ploy to be taken seriously. His standing with Argentina's voters has waned as his political appetite has grown. He has insisted on a new constitution mainly in order to remove the bar on his serving a second term. Since Argentines, with good reason, distrust politicians obsessed by retaining power, he faces a tough campaign despite the economic transformation he has wrought in Argentina. He has every reason to play the Falklands card.

For that reason, some may be tempted to treat the offer as merely part of presidential politics. Señor Menem has a reputation for playing to the gallery with off-the-cuff sallies. One example was his suggestion last May that Argentina's courts should determine whether the sinking of the *Belgrano* was a war crime — and that if the answer was positive, Argentina should seek the extradition of Baroness Thatcher to face charges. There have been other diversions too, only slightly less absurd.

But Britain should be cautious. This notion of bribing the Falklanders was no spur of the moment invention: Guido di Tella, Argentina's Foreign Minister, floated the same idea last June, describing the payment as an "exchange for Argentine sovereignty" over the Falklands, to provide "compensation for the psychological disturbance" the transfer would cause. The implication is that Argentina, whose new constitution reasserts its claim to the Falklands, can "buy" the territory by paying off its inhabitants.

Before 1982, British diplomats were themselves putting out feelers on the future of the islands, and a "willing buyer, willing seller" solution might seem to Buenos Aires a neat way to solve the fate of a couple of hundred small islands off the Argentine coast. Señor Menem cited the Alaska Purchase as an instance of such a transaction. The £2 billion

it would cost could even be a bargain, if the seismic surveys indicating that there is more oil in Falklands waters than in the North Sea were to prove accurate.

If such is the calculation, it suggests that for all Argentina's embrace of democracy, its governing elite has a slender grasp of the nature of sovereignty in international law. Territory can and does change hands, but only by agreement between sovereign powers. An individual may apply for what nationality he chooses, but he cannot transfer territory to alien sovereignty. Argentina may imagine that payment could purchase a favourable outcome to an act of self-determination, which Britain would accept. But nationhood is not a commodity to be bought and sold — even when the would-be purchaser has not recently attempted to seize sovereignty by force, as Argentina did in 1982.

That conflict, as Douglas Hurd told the Falklanders when he visited the islands last April, settled the question. Memories of the invasion are still so raw that the islanders distrust even an Argentine offer to clear the minefields that its troops laid. President Menem has been realistic about this in the past: when he took office in 1989, he took the politically courageous and correct decision to rebuild relations with Britain by setting the sovereignty claim on one side.

The presence today of the Duke of York, a combatant in the Falklands campaign, at a luncheon given by Mr Hurd for Señor Menem's brother underlines the progress made. Co-operation profits all sides, including the Falklanders. It is necessary for the conservation of the squid fisheries from which the Falklands derives nearly two-thirds of government revenue: it is desirable, though not essential, for the exploitation of the offshore hydrocarbons which could yet transform the Falklands from a financial liability into an important British asset. Traditional diplomacy has achieved much in 14 years. Señor Menem's bright idea can have nothing but perverse and destructive consequences for those gains.

ALBANY'S APPLE

Welcome to the electoral politics of New York

New York state elects a governor next week and New York city is alarmed. Mario Cuomo, the state governor, for years the repository of old liberal Democrat dreams, is in danger of defeat from an unknown Republican who would rejoice in tearing the city's budget to shreds. The better known Republican city mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, who made his name by fighting for almost everything that Governor Cuomo is against, is rooting for Mr Cuomo to win.

Until a few days ago, America was bracing itself for one of the biggest mid-term upsets for years: the defeat of Mr Cuomo, who has resolutely refused to lift the bushel hiding his undoubted lights. Then suddenly Mr Giuliani, the razor-toothed former prosecutor, broke ranks with his party's right-wing machine, with Senator Alfonse D'Amato, its eminence grise, and came out decisively against George Pataki, the little-known Republican challenger. In doing so he may have helped to save Mr Cuomo, allowing the "Hamlet on the Hudson" to escape the electoral consequences of a decade of unfulfilled promise.

Party discipline in American politics has never limited the ambitions of its colourful politicians. This year has seen an excep-

tional amount of cross-endorsement, as unpopular incumbents measure cynically their best chances of returning to Washington. Mr Giuliani's *coup de théâtre* is informed by sound political logic. The Republicans' plans for cuts in the budget for New York City are aimed not only at curbing a tradition of profligacy and overindulgence of the poor, but also at destroying the Republican tradition that goes back to Mayor John Lindsay, the Rockefeller and many of those who now surround Mr Giuliani. If this endorsement snatches last-minute victory for Mr Cuomo, the mayor reckons, there will be a debt of gratitude to be paid.

Whether this latest twist will galvanise Mr Cuomo himself is unclear. The governor is still popular; but by his wilful refusal to climb the ladder held in front of him — either as a presidential candidate or as a Supreme Court justice — he has disappointed expectations and has become a prisoner in his own office. As such, he cannot use vaulting ambition to escape the discontent of frustrated voters still looking for a solution to America's urban ills. If he loses, he is finished — but Governor Cuomo will not go down alone.

Franco-British relations in times of peace and war

From Mr Michael Chichester

Sir, The forthcoming Franco-British defence "summit", and the Foreign Secretary's new-found enthusiasm for cross-Channel defence co-operation ("Old foes but new friends", October 28) are two welcome signs of a burgeoning realism in the building of a viable and affordable strategic role for our armed forces in the 21st century.

At the Chertres meeting the partnership agreement between the British field army and France's Force Action Rapide and the plan for a combined Anglo-French air force group should be matched by similar agreements for naval co-operation between the two countries, based primarily on the formation of a combined aircraft-carrier task force. But the ultimate goal of geo-strategic realism to which both countries should aspire is the merging of the two national submarine-based strategic nuclear deterrent forces into a single force assigned to the Western European Union for the nuclear defence of the EC.

Both countries could then reduce their ballistic-missile-carrying submarine building programmes, and the resulting savings could be switched to the creation of conventional defence assets more suited to low-intensity operations within and beyond the European strategic theatre.

The current Anglo-French plans include the creation and use of the flexible and mobile forces for which British defence ministers constantly proclaim the need. However, to create the greatest degree of flexibility and mobility in our forces we should relinquish our now strategically obsolete "continental commitment", withdraw our forces from Germany, and rebalance the army's order of battle with more attack and other types of combat helicopter and fewer main battle tanks.

Now that they are unlikely ever to be in action on the North German plain, the total dependence of these

heavy armoured vehicles on rail and sea transport for deployment to overseas operations renders them incapable of meeting ministerial criteria for flexibility and mobility.

Yours truly,
MICHAEL CHICHESTER,
The Mead House,
Taynton, Burford, Oxfordshire.

From Mr William Cash, MP for Stafford (Conservative)

Sir, The Foreign Secretary, in his article of October 28 quotes past examples of Anglo-French co-operation; but in the Gulf War France was merely dragged along reluctantly as she pursued her national interests in the Middle East. The Bosnian people might be surprised to read his eulogy on Anglo-French co-operation in that region, given that the European Union's attempted foreign policy has exacerbated the tragedy there.

In recent times our most trustworthy ally has been the United States. President Clinton may be pushing us into European arms, but he will find out, as President Bush did in the Gulf War, that Britain within a clearly defined NATO is a more useful ally in its independent defence role than if it is bound down by a common defence policy with unreliable partners under the V of the Maastricht Treaty.

Many would like to know to whom our armed forces would owe allegiance in a European army under a common defence policy. This fundamental issue must be cleared up.

Yours faithfully,
BILL CASH (Chairman),
The European Foundation,
61 Pall Mall, SW1.

From Sir Anthony Meyer

Sir, It is sad that you should give prominence to Alan Clark's crude outpouring of anti-French bile today ("Why we need a strategy, not platitudes", in his article last week, for instance, Douglas Hurd praised the

way French troops in Bosnia have worked with British troops. Alan Clark's comment: "Let us hope they don't run into 2 Para on a Saturday night."

Of course there are differences between French and British attitudes over Europe: nowhere more so than between Conservatives of Alan Clark's persuasion and the equally extreme right-wingers in France, who agree in wishing to drain the European Union of all supranational content, but on nothing else, since their nationalist aims are irreconcilable.

But the fact is that the French, who suffered far more than we did in two world wars, are determined to preserve the essential basis of co-operation which has served Europe so well since 1950; and they would dearly love the British to join them and the Germans in safeguarding it.

Yours etc,
ANTHONY MEYER,
158 Buckingham Palace Road, SW1,
November 1.

From the Reverend Professor W. H. C. Frend, FBA

Sir, I was surprised by Alan Clark's assertion that the Vichy French inflicted more casualties on our troops during 1941 than did the Italians. We fought campaigns against the Italians in Eritrea and Abyssinia until May 1941, but only a short campaign against the Vichy French in Syria. There we were aided powerfully by the Free French forces under General Caillaux. As secretary to the Cabinet Committee on the Free French Forces between April 1941 and August 1942, I can testify to the wholehearted support we received from the Free French at that time. This is the tradition of Anglo-French relations we need to remember today.

Yours faithfully,
W. H. C. FREND,
The Clerks Cottage,
Little Wilbraham, Cambridge.

Continuing doubts on genetic determination of IQ

From Dr C. B. Goodhart

Sir, You imply in your leading article of October 31, "Test of intelligence", that there is still some doubt about the heritability of intelligence. It is true that the late Sir Cyril Burt's evidence for this from studies of twins was discredited after his death in 1971 (although the discrediting itself is now largely discredited); but the work has anyway now been repeated in the Minnesota study of more than 100 sets of twins and triplets; this found that about 70 per cent of the variance in IQ was due to genetic variation, close to Burt's original estimate.

But there is another, quite different evolutionary argument, which should be decisive. Humans differ from all other animals in intelligence; and, since no amount of teaching will bring a chimpanzee up to anywhere near the level of quite a young human child, most of the difference must be genetically inherited.

That must have resulted from natural selection, which works only in a population showing additive variance in genetically heritable characters.

So, since over the past 100,000 generations or so we have evolved from the apes to our present level of intelligence, what has been selected for must have been genetically heritable. Q.E.D.

Yours etc,
C. B. GOODHART,
Gonville & Caius College,
Cambridge,
November 1.

From Dr Edward de Bono

Sir, If IQ tests correlate well with higher income this suggests to me that we are giving higher incomes to the

wrong people. Is the correlation so good where people actually have to earn their income? Are street-smartness and operating intelligence actually measured by such tests?

Now that the usual sensible nonsense has been written about IQ tests, one thing should have become obvious. The world should be paying millions of pounds to demonstrate how training in basic thinking skills can make a big difference to operating intelligence.

It is not. So I am not. This is a pity because there are some indications that training in thinking skills can cause such large shifts in supposedly innate abilities that these shifts are not acceptable.

Yours sincerely,
EDWARD DE BONO
(Director, Cognitive Research Trust),
Albany, Piccadilly, W1.

From Mr Alan J. Day

Sir, Adrian Woolridge ("In defence of intelligence tests", *Agenda*, October 31) is wrong to assert that US affirmative action in favour of blacks implies acceptance of the Murray-Herrnstein thesis that blacks have a lower average IQ than whites, and that it is therefore "deeply racist".

On the contrary, the key assumption of such affirmative action is that black disadvantage derives wholly from social and economic factors, and can therefore be remedied by enlightened government action.

The real thrust of the Murray-Herrnstein thesis (as Dr Woolridge also states) is that positive discrimination and related tax-funded programmes on behalf of blacks will never succeed, for reasons beyond our control. The unspoken corollary is that

whites should stop feeling guilty about black disadvantage and that blacks should stop blaming whites for all their problems. The key question, however, is how much social good would result if they did.

Yours etc,
ALAN J. DAY,
19 Eton Rise,
Eton College Road, NW3.

From Mr Edward F. Northcote

Sir, If Professor Lynn is right ("Is man breeding himself back to the age of the apes?", October 24), we who are more intelligent are not showing much sign of it in the way we run things. One young person in three now goes into higher education: if an IQ in the top 2 per cent is necessary (though not sufficient) to get a good degree, then no more than one in 16 of these can achieve that.

Why do we do it? If, perhaps, the dons are actually awarding good degrees to significant numbers who have IQs of less than 130, even more questions need answering.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD F. NORTHCOTE,
38 Westmore Court,
Carlton Drive, SW15.

From Dr Ian Dunlop

Sir, Before we all become entangled in the age-old and acrimonious nature versus nurture argument again, perhaps it would help to remember Sir Peter Medawar's wise precept: "Hereditary propensities, development disposes."

Yours genetically and environmentally,
IAN DUNLOP,
54 Osborne Villas, Hove, Sussex,
October 31.

Romania investment

From Sir Rowland Whitehead

Sir, Sadly British business investment in Romania lags far behind that of other countries. Germany has invested in over 3,000 companies, we in 360 only. As an example, the privatisation of Ursus Brewery serving the needs of 18 million thirsty Romanians brought a German owner; the British brewers were not interested.

President Iliescu's present private visit to this country is about addressing this problem. I hope that he is successful.

In two years and many visits to Romania I have seen the roots of an entrepreneurial culture which, with encouragement and instruction from the West, will cause the small and medium-sized businesses to flourish. It is not generally known that in some advanced capitalist countries most of the trade is done by the smaller companies. In the USA the top 500 firms only generate 10 per cent of the wealth.

Yours faithfully,
ROWLAND WHITEHEAD,
Sutton House, Chiswick Mall, W4,
November 2.

Business letters, page 29
Sports letters, page 42

Letters to the editor that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

How ethical is the rubella campaign?

From Dr R. H. Nicholson, Editor of the Bulletin of Medical Ethics

Sir, Concerns about the rubella element of the immunisation campaign against measles (letters, October 28, 31) have distracted attention from the fact that the programme is an experiment on our children that breaches government guidelines.

In 1991 the Department of Health issued guidelines requiring all experiments on NHS patients to be reviewed in advance by local research ethics committees. No such committee has approved this experiment.

That it is an experiment was made clear in an editorial in last week's *British Medical Journal*, written by the director of the immunisation division at the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre. She wrote: "The campaign approach for delivering measles vaccine has not been tried before in an industrialised country..." and went on: "...the comprehensive surveillance systems in place... will allow the epidemiological consequences of the campaign to be assessed accurately."

Had the proposed campaign been submitted to research ethics committees, it is unlikely that it would have been approved in its present form, for several reasons:

1. Neither the information sheet for parents nor that for doctors gives any details of how the conclusion that there is to be a measles epidemic was arrived at. This basic information has yet to be published.

2. No information has been given about how the outcome of the experiment is to be assessed. If there are fewer measles cases than predicted, how will the Department of Health distinguish between a mistake in its mathematical model and an effect of immunisation?

3. The information sheets give quite inadequate information about the side-effects of immunisation. Also, no research ethics committee should approve a document that is not written even-handedly but tries to push parents into consenting to their children's participation.

4. The department's response to the unwillingness of some Catholic and Muslim communities to accept the rubella immunisation would lead an ethics committee to ask whether important information was being withheld. If the purpose of the campaign is to prevent a measles epidemic, why should it matter if some groups do not want immunisation at the same time against a different disease?

Regrettably, the Department of Health has shown little interest over the last decade in the ethics of research on humans. But should it be allowed to breach widely accepted international guidelines, as well as its own, in carrying out research on a large proportion of our children?

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD NICHOLSON,
Editor,
Bulletin of Medical Ethics,
31 Corsica Street, N5,
November 1.

Judgment overturned

From the Lord Chief Justice

Sir, I am afraid that Sir Frederick Lawton, writing from retirement ("When judges should be judged fit to judge", November 1), has been incorrectly informed.

First, the letter which offended Judge Crabtree (and many other judges) was a copy, sent by recorded delivery to all judges, of a letter to me from the Lord Chancellor setting out the matters which he would regard as judicial misconduct. Sir Frederick says the letter "did not come from the Lord Chancellor" and asserts that "the clerical muddle" occurred when "the letters went from a clerk in the Lord Chief's Office".

Absolutely wrong. There was no muddle in my office. The copy letters were sent out to judges by the Lord Chancellor's Department (though regrettably without explanation or even a compliments slip).

Secondly, in relation to allegedly lenient sentences, Sir Frederick writes:

It is reputed that some judges have been summoned to interviews with the Lord Chancellor. They may have left deciding that they must never again be as lenient, or severe, as they have been. Their judicial discretion will have been fettered.

In my experience no judge has been so summoned, and I have confirmed this with the Lord Chancellor. I would be most disturbed if one were to be, and would regard it as inconsistent with judicial independence.

Yours etc,
TAYLOR OF GOSFORTH C.J.,
Royal Courts of Justice,
Strand, WC2,
November 1.

Cutting it fine

From Mr Barry S. Hyman

Sir, Thirty minutes' wait for cars at Salisbury District Hospital is a generous measure (Mr Martin's letter, November 1). The maternity ward at a hospital in this vicinity has a sign outside it which reads: "Pick up & drop — 15 minutes only."

Yours faithfully,
BARRY HYMAN,
4 Priory View,
Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire,
November 1.

FARE DEALS

Haute cuisine at St George's

THE St George's Hotel in Langham Place, close to Oxford Circus and the BBC, has reopened its 15th-floor restaurant named The Heights - after an extensive refit. The restaurant aims to deliver modern British food under the guidance of the former Roux brothers chef Adam Newell.

Meanwhile, the St George's owner, Forte, is arguing with the belea-

parkland and can trace its origins back 700 years. Grand Heritage Hotels yesterday launched its 1995 directory of all its properties. Details: 0800 282 811.

Fax finding

AN alternative to hotel directories has been launched by Novafax Hotelfinder, a Kent-based company. Potential guests can call for details of hotels in different areas and categories, which are then faxed to them. Details: 0732 780080.

Tee time

A SPECIAL weekend break for golfers at the St Andrew's Old Course Hotel in Scotland costs from £99 a person and offers the chance to play on five adjoining golf courses. Playing on the Old Course itself depends on getting lucky in the daily ballot for tee times. Details: 0343 474371.

Wet weekend

THE only waterfront to be found in a London hotel is in the newly refurbished Montcalm. The canopied bed is in the bridal suite, which also includes a whirlpool bath, and costs £250 a night, plus VAT.

Royal backing

THE Prince of Wales's Business Leaders Forum has backed an initiative to encourage hotels to adopt a more "green" stance, for instance, by conserving energy and reducing waste. The International Hotels Environment Initiative has produced a directory in seven languages for use by hotel staff, explaining how resources can be conserved. London's Tower Thistle Hotel, for example, encourages guests to dump used towels in their bath so that staff know which ones need changing.



Let us show you... He heights! The heights!

Healthy option

FITNESS fanatics at ten selected Jarvis Hotels around Britain can now hire a Tunturi exercise bike for use in the privacy of their rooms for £2 a session. The chain also has 11 Sebastian Coe health and fitness centres within a total of 26 health clubs.

Living history

THE 24-bedroom Dalhousie Castle Hotel at Bonnyrigg, near Edinburgh, has joined the Grand Heritage Hotels consortium, comprising 33 historic and architecturally notable hotels in Europe and America. Dalhousie Castle, which is set in 100 acres of forest and



Scenes of contrast: a packed holiday beach on the Costa Brava, Spain, where bookings are steadily rising and, right, the violence on the streets of Miami that is driving tourists away



Who won the holiday wars?

Spain won the battle for holidaymakers' hearts this summer and Florida was the travel industry's biggest loser. According to figures released this week by Thomas Cook, Spain showed an unprecedented growth of 35 per cent to a total of 3.5 million British tourists.

Florida, meanwhile, was hit by a dollar-pound exchange rate in America's favour. Reports of attacks on tourists also tarnished its image. Thousands of Britons booked their summer holiday late this year and snapped up packages at huge discounts in June, July and August. Some operators had to slash as much as 20 per cent off brochure prices because they

mistakenly believed that the initial surge in bookings when programmes were launched in autumn 1993 would continue. Thomas Cook says the market as a whole, however, grew by 13 per cent, and that a total of 9.2 million people bought an overseas package holiday through a travel agent.

In July, tour operators were knocking as much as 50 per cent off some package holidays, sometimes hours before the flights left Britain in order to minimise the number of empty seats on aircraft. The cheapest holidays were often "square deals", where holidaymakers are told where they were staying only when they arrive at their destination. Peter Shanks, Cook's com-

Marianne Curphey looks at the winners and losers among destinations this summer

mercial director, said: "Spain did extremely well because it offered such good value for money, especially for families, and people could not afford to travel long-haul."

Florida's share of the market dropped by 21 per cent, while the Caribbean grew by 15 per cent, boosted by new charter flights from Britain. Other success stories were Cyprus, up by 13 per cent, Turkey (7 per cent), Greece (6 per cent), and Portugal (5 per cent).

Mr Shanks said: "Cyprus had a bad year in 1993 because it raised prices by 20 per cent. This shows how price-conscious consumers are. By 1994, Cyprus prices had moved back in line with other short-haul destinations and as a result had a better year."

He predicts a return to long-haul holidays for next summer. "The market tends to move in circles, with people opting for short-haul one year, then deciding to go further afield the next," he said. "For

example, in 1992 and 1993, the Caribbean and Florida did well, and it could be that holidaymakers will return to Florida."

Spain, he predicted, would have another successful summer, and growth would rise by between 10 and 15 per cent. He claimed, however, that a frenzied launch of the summer 1995 programme in August, when many holidaymakers were either out of the country or had still to take their holiday, had confused consumers.

There have been fears in May that demand was so great for Spain that there would not be enough accommodation. In the event, Mr Shanks said, the Spanish au-

thorities and the travel industry worked hard to ensure that holidaymakers' honours, their bookings.

A plethora of special offers, including discounts of up to 15 per cent for early bookers, had meant the market started strongly but then tailed off. He predicts that bookings will be down by 8 per cent by Christmas compared with the same period last year.

Ten per cent of holidaymakers are now booking over the phone rather than coming into travel agents' offices, he said.

The average cost of a package holiday for summer 1994 was £391, compared with £380 last year, and the rise was roughly in line with inflation at 2.9 per cent.

A NEW British airline last week began regular flights from Heathrow to Beirut, reflecting the confidence now flooding back to Lebanon and much of the Middle East.

Hugh Parry, the chief executive of British Mediterranean Airways, said that the growing economy, the numbers of Lebanese returning home and the opportunities for tourism justified the launch of the service. His view is shared by British Airways, which will

compete with the new airline from December 2. Hundreds of wealthy, well-educated and influential Lebanese have now returned to their country since the 17-year-long civil war ended four years ago.

Their optimism is reflected in Solidere, a company responsible for financing and

developing the infrastructure of the Beirut central district, overseeing the restoration of buildings that can be repaired and helping to rebuild the economy.

Although much of the central district is still shattered, in the south there are at least two quality hotels which were largely untouched.

They both have swimming pools, private beaches, tennis courts and restaurants. Along the coast, the Corniche at Raouche, with its restaurants and hotels, could be the promenade of any coastal resort in Europe. These survivors of the war are, Solidere believes, more than enough to build on. Solidere says that within

five years life should be restored to the heart of the capital. In ten years there will be a new Beirut, with some buildings repaired and others erected alongside. There will be new gardens, beaches and land reclaimed from the sea. The traditional bazars, which have virtually disappeared, will be given pride of place

and the seafaring area that became a municipal dump during the war will be reclaimed and rehabilitated.

The £333 million infrastructure project is being funded almost entirely by Lebanese money that had previously been invested overseas. Beirut, says Solidere, will once again become the commercial and tourist centre of the Middle East.

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If France can fill its country cottages with tourists, why can't we solve Britain's hotel shortage by opening our doors to visitors?

When a house a few doors away from me fell vacant some years ago, I had an idea which, I was convinced, could not fail to make money. Why didn't the ten or so neighbours, who lived in a close on the outskirts of London in harmony and mutual self-help, club together to buy it and let it to foreign tourists?

We could look after the guests in much the same way as we had the lonely old woman who had lived there. A little welcoming party, perhaps, an introduction to where to shop, how to use public transport and all the personal touches that could make a foreign guest feel welcome.

That was about 15 years ago when property prices were still comparatively low. They were still, however, too high for us and the idea had to be abandoned. How I wish that we had gone ahead.

Your home can be where the profit is



The Travel Business
HARVEY ELLIOTT

Now, according to the British Tourist Authority, there is a dire shortage of cheap, quality accommodation throughout Britain, especially in and around London. Some experts claim that there are at least 19,000 fewer hotel beds available in London alone than are needed, and many more in the regions.

The immutable laws of supply and demand rule that if there is a shortage the price goes up, which is why 42 per cent of foreign visitors to London and 21 per cent in the regions complain about the prices and value for money of hotels. We have about a million bed spaces available in what is known as "serviced accommoda-

tion". They are spread throughout 10,000 hotels, 11,500 guest houses, 13,300 bed and breakfasts and 4,000 farms.

On top of this there are a mere 13,000 self-catering establishments. And in my opinion this is nowhere near enough.

An estimated 70,000 Britons have second homes in the country which are used, at the most, for two or three weeks a year and which, for the rest of the time, stand empty. Owners who have found a way of letting them are not only helping to defray their own costs but putting money back into the local economy by employing cleaners, maintenance firms and a range of shops and services.

They also give foreign visitors an insight into the real Britain. After all, if you were one of the 2,670,000 Americans who came to Britain on vacation last year, what would you expect to find? Maybe a quaint old pub or inn, perhaps a cottage tucked under the hills with roses around the door, and perhaps the chance of finding a long-

lost ancestor down the road. You would certainly not want to be accommodated in some travel lodge alongside a motorway. Yet that is where the industry is expanding. It is, I believe, about to be proved spectacularly wrong.

Nobody understands the travel market as well as the Thomson group, the biggest travel organisation in Britain. Until now it has concentrated on sending millions of "punters" on package tours to the sun. In other words, it has identified what the public wants and provided it at a price they can afford to pay.

Now Thomson has found a new market - country cottages. Earlier this year it bought Country Cot-

tages, the country's largest holiday cottage letting agency, for £35 million. The company inspects 6,000 cottages, whose owners then use Thomson to fill the properties for much of the year at about £12 a person a night - a fraction of the price of a hotel.

So far, only 2 per cent of tourists are foreigners. The others are mainly middle-aged, middle-class Britons who stay in the "honeypot" sites for their first self-catering experience before branching out into the lesser-known parts of the country. Within the next couple of years Thomson plans to market the properties worldwide. If the

French have managed to create a marketable image for their unspoilt *gîtes*, then our country cottages should take the world by storm. Once foreigners have tried, for example, one of the 220 superbly appointed cottages rented out by the National Trust, there will be no stopping them.

Those of us who write on travel tend to become blasé about foreign travel. So when we take a break we often avoid overcrowded airports and hot foreign destinations.

That is why I am going to an old priory in Norfolk being let by Rural Retreats early in December. We will walk a lot, drink too many pints in the local pub, light log fires and sit late into the night swapping yarns with old friends. I urge you to do the same soon before the hordes - from Britain and abroad - realise what they have been missing.

Disney woos the British

More losses will be revealed today, but Euro Disney believes the worst is past. David Churchill reports

The Paris-based Euro Disney theme park, which today is expected to reveal more losses for its financial year to September, is launching an aggressive new marketing campaign to woo British tourists.

The campaign includes a new, £4 million television commercials drive, and a dedicated London-based sales and marketing staff aimed at promoting the theme park and "report to the British travel trade. After Euro Disney's opening in April 1992, Britain was the single most important market outside France; now we have been overtaken by Germany in terms of visitor numbers.

Despite its well publicised problems, Euro Disney remains the most popular tourist attraction not only in France (see table) but in the whole of Europe, even though visitor numbers are believed to have dropped to nine million in the last financial year. Next week, William Jones formally starts work in London as Euro Disney's new UK general manager responsible for boosting Euro Disney's image in the UK. Mr Jones was appointed last week, after working for the past three years for Thomas Cook business travel in Canada. He says that his clear priority is to "alter some of the misconceptions and negative image in Britain of Disneyland Paris". Disneyland Paris is the new

Top 10 attractions in 1993 (1992 placings in brackets)

- 1 (-) EuroDisney 12.9m
- 2 (1) Centre Georges Pompidou 7.9m
- 3 (3) La Vilette 5.6m
- 4 (2) Eiffel Tower 5.5m
- 5 (4) Louvre 4.9m
- 6 (5) Versailles 3.2m
- 7 (6) Musée d'Orsay 3.0m
- 8 (-) Futuroscope 1.9m
- 9 (-) Parc Astérix 1.3m
- 10 (8) Mont St Michel 0.8m

marketing name for the theme park, although the public company is still known as Euro Disney.

Disney now admits that its marketing strategy in Britain was uncoordinated and ill-conceived. Since the opening in 1992, marketing staff in London were responsible for selling both Euro Disney as a short-break destination, and also discouraged those who might stay in Euro Disney's five hotels on site.

The new advertising campaign, which broke last week, concentrates on developing aspirations among families to visit the park, rather than going simply because it is cheap. Jürgen Fischer, sales and marketing vice-president for Euro Disney in Paris, says that the advertising "does not



Euro Disney puts on its winter costumes: the theme park expects to be sold out over the Christmas holiday period

stress the park or its products, but the pleasure which can be gained from visiting it". The new campaign will also be concentrated in short bursts, rather than the previous "drip-drip" approach.

Disney executives also believe that, in spite of the reduced losses being announced today in Paris, the company is now financially more stable. Last month, Prince Al-Waleed of Saudi Arabia took a 25 per cent stake in Euro Disney, making him the largest shareholder after Disney. Insiders say that the company was badly hit by

poor bookings in the spring at the time of rumours about the park's closure. Euro Disney is optimistic that the worst is now past. Later this month, it will redecorate the theme park for Christmas and expects to be sold out over the holiday period. Next year it is also opening Space Mountain, its first major new attraction since the park opened.

When the Channel Tunnel starts operating at full capacity, it is expected to give Euro Disney a substantial boost, especially from next April when direct access via the Eurostar and French high-speed TGV trains will cut the

journey time from London to about three-and-a-half hours. Paris Travel Service, the biggest UK operator to Euro Disney, is offering two-night packages via Eurostar and staying at the Hotel Cheyenne for £220 per person.

But tour operators such as Thomson Holidays and British Airways Holidays, which rely largely on air transport to Paris, said they had no plans to increase their marketing of Euro Disney. Joanna Edmonds, programme planning director for Thomsons, says: "Although we pushed the theme park hard when it opened, it is now a part of our European cities programme."

More war tours ready

Packages are offered for next year's Second World War anniversaries

The fiftieth anniversaries of the ending of the Second World War in Europe next May, and in the Far East in August, are certain not only to revive memories but also to kindle fresh interest in those too young to remember the momentous events that led to the Axis surrender. While there will be nothing to compare with this year's great parades of veterans on the Normandy beaches, tens of thousands of people are expected to visit the key battlefields of the struggle.

To mark the occasion, Holts' Battlefield Tours has introduced five new guided itineraries. Crossing the Rhine (March 22-26) will take visitors to Nijmegen, in The Netherlands, with daily briefings and excursions into Germany; the guest lecturer will be Colonel "Tod" Sweeney, a veteran of the 6th Airborne Division (inclusive price £429).

An eight-day visit to the Channel Islands, May 5-12, will recall that the islands were not liberated until the end of the war, nearly a year after the nearby D-Day landings. The guides are Richard Heston, creator of the Occupation Museum in Guernsey, and Colin Partridge, author of *Atlantic Wall* (1987).

Two tours, April 25-29 and June 6-10, will take in Berlin, the city of Potsdam where Churchill, Stalin and Truman conferred in July 1945, and

Colditz castle, the infamous prisoner-of-war camp. Major Hugh Bruce, a former inmate, will talk about life in the castle and Lt Colonel Tony Le Tissier will describe the final battle for the German capital (1699). Eight days in Norway, May 2-9, will include the celebrations in Oslo to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the liberation, and visits to the fjords and to Lillehammer (1895).

The fall of Singapore in February 1942 was described by Churchill as "the worst disaster and largest capitulation in British history". Next year's tour, September 9-17, will include the Kranji Memorial to the Missing, the reconstructed chapel and museum at the infamous Changi jail, and the restored artillery fort on Sentosa Island with its guns pointing out to sea (£1,495, plus £517 for an optional week's stay on the tropical island of Langkawi).

A recent upsurge of interest in English battlefields, prompted by English Heritage's decision to compile a register and by a series in *The Times* last August, has also persuaded Holts' to include three key Civil War sites for the first time: of Monmouth's defeat at Sedgemoor in 1685, the crushing of the Stuart rebellion at Culloden in 1745, and the decisive Civil War battle of Naseby in 1645.

JOHN YOUNG

TRAVEL NEWS IN BRIEF

Tourists rationed

THE President of Ecuador, Durán Ballén, has issued a string of edicts aimed at protecting the Galapagos Islands from the potential ravages of tourism. No more tourist permits will be issued, ensuring that the big cruise ships which have caused so much destruction in other parts of the world will be barred. There will be a complete ban on shark fishing in the marine reserve, and the Ecuador government will use patrol boats and aircraft to ensure that the protection measures are observed. Anyone breaking the new laws will be subject to "extreme sanctions".

Plane Braille

AIR France is to install safety instructions in Braille for blind and partially sighted passengers. The instructions,

in French and English, contain a three-dimensional plan of the aircraft interior with positions of the emergency exits, toilets and galleys, and safety instructions.

Runway fight

THE intense rivalry between Manchester and Liverpool is as fierce in the great stadiums of aviation as it is at Old Trafford and Anfield. Liverpool airport authorities told a public inquiry into Manchester's plans to build a second runway that if it was approved, other regional airports would struggle to survive. "The way to meet the growing demand for air travel in the UK is a national issue," said Liverpool airports managing director, Rod Hill. "Do we meet the demand where it arises or do we force air passengers to travel long distances to congested mega-airports?" Liverpool wants to expand its own airport with a big development into the Mersey estuary.

HARVEY ELLIOTT

Airline strikes hit Spain

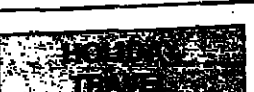
IBERIA flights to Spain and within the country will be disrupted during the next two months because of strikes threatened by the near-bankrupt state airline's staff.

Spain's two main unions have called a 24-hour stoppage of Iberia staff for today and for November 11 and December 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. Two-hour stoppages have been called for November 4, 11, 18 and 25. The unions object to government plans to cut 2,000 jobs and to reduce salaries by 15 per cent.

Passengers wanting to fly within Spain on the strike days can use Air Europa or Spanair, two airlines now operating in Spain thanks to European Union regulations.

Iberia, which has been over-ambitious in buying several South American airlines, is forecast to lose £220 million this year and will be technically bankrupt by the spring unless the EU approves a £725 million cash injection.

EDWARD OWEN



Read more Travel in Weekend on Saturday with special features on Caribbean cruising and the Grenadines, Copenhagen, the Cotswolds, working holidays and Doug Sager's Sit News

The invisible flying baby

Anna Foster

begs for help with her infant on a long flight

Don't worry, my husband reassured me, as I contemplated the 11-hour flight to Cape Town alone with our ten-month-old daughter. "Airlines are really good with babies."

South African Airways obviously thinks so, judging by its television advertisement showing a baby being delivered in mid-flight without medical equipment or even the father being woken up.

Maybe I made the mistake of travelling with a baby who was already born. At any rate, SAA did not deliver a baby-friendly flight.

Since Miranda exceeded the seven-month age limit for a Skycot, I was told when I booked that I could take her pram on the plane. Not so. "To the plane, not on it," the check-in desk said.

Once seated, my juggling skills were put to the test. With wriggling baby locked in one arm, I tried to unscrew the cap on the vodka bottle for my favourite Bloody Mary. With my lively little load, could I the stewardess have mixed me drink? As I grew more frustrated, baby grew more interested in my beaker of tomato juice and swizzle stick. No stewardess in sight, so my neighbour rescued us all.

Supper was next. More one-handed manoeuvring: prised the silver-foil wrapper from the hot dish, only to reveal a



And baby makes too many: Anna Foster and Miranda

breast of chicken that needed to be cut. I "chickened" out, opting for the bread roll, some vegetables and cheese and biscuits. The staff were too busy serving other meals.

By now, I was desperate for a Skycot. My arms were ready to fall off and Miranda was crying. Perhaps sensing I was about to add my tears to those of the baby, the stewardess brought a Skycot.

I made contact with the cabin staff only once more. Needing the lavatory, I asked a stewardess to mind the baby, now asleep in the cot. On my return, she was chatting to a passenger, back turned to Miranda.

I arrived in Cape Town without once being offered a helping hand, nappies or drinks for the baby.

The return flight should have been easier because my husband joined us. But now Miranda had tonsillitis. My husband and I certainly could have done with a short break from the baby. Mostly, she seemed invisible to SAA: even when she was sick over my husband, necessitating a change of clothes for both, we were ignored.

The flight marred an otherwise wonderful holiday in a beautiful country. Unlike those in the ad, the cabin staff on our flights could barely have changed a nappy, let alone delivered a baby.

Travel the Internet

READERS of *The Times* travel pages on Thursdays and Saturdays can now become travellers on the Internet information highway, which links computers across the planet.

The Times has gone online with Delphi (owned by an associate company of *The Times*), the world's biggest provider of access to the Internet.

As well as forums for media, education, infotech and news, there is a special travel forum in which readers can swap tips and quiz *The Times* travel team - and

get access to Internet travel with travel tips from all over the world.

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 3 1994

Polly Peck fugitive faces seizure of assets in north Cyprus

Asil Nadir linked to shooting



Nadir: under pressure

By JON ASHWORK

ASIL Nadir, the fugitive tycoon, has been accused of having direct links with a failed attempt to shoot an accountant investigating the collapsed Polly Peck fruits-to-electronics empire.

His companies are reported to owe 400 billion Turkish lira (£3 million) in taxes, social

security contributions and rent arrears. The local government is reported to be considering seizing some of Mr Nadir's assets, and may withdraw about \$4.5 million in state money deposited with a bank owned by Mr Nadir.

There are signs that local banks are reluctant to extend additional credit to him. Two Turkish citizens who were arrested in connection with the shooting of David Adams, a Coopers & Lybrand employee, claim to have acted on the instruction of Erkan Kenanoglu, described in the northern Cyprus press as one of Mr Nadir's bodyguards. The Turkish defendants claim that Mr Kenanoglu instructed

them to shoot Chris Howell, a C&L employee working on the Polly Peck international administration in Istanbul. They shot Mr Adams by mistake as he was leaving the C&L office on August 19.

Mr Kenanoglu, who is thought to have entered northern Cyprus two days after the shooting, was extradited to Istanbul two weeks ago at the request of Turkish authorities. His lawyer was appointed by an advocate who has represented Mr Nadir in the past, and his expenses were allegedly met by companies linked to Mr Nadir. Mr Kenanoglu is alleged to have offered the gunmen shares worth up to 250 million lira each in Vestel,

one of Polly Peck's Turkish subsidiaries, in return for carrying out the shooting.

Mr Adams, a management consultant unconnected with the Polly Peck case, was shot twice in the leg. The attack followed an earlier incident in which Mr Howell was beaten up by two Turks, not long after a court lifted a 3½-year-old injunction preventing access to various Polly Peck companies. He has received at least one death threat.

The financial pressure on Mr Nadir has been growing since July, when the European Community announced an EC ban on citrus imports from northern Cyprus. Profits from Mr Nadir's fruit farms and

factories in the region have helped pay for his extensive legal bills. The businesses are legally owned by Polly Peck creditors and shareholders.

The administrators are trying to gain access to local assets with a book value of £50 million. These include three hotels, Unipac, a packaging company, and Sunvest Trading, a fruit packaging concern. The funds thought to have passed through these are estimated at £400 million.

Chris Barlow, lead administrator at C&L, is seeking to negotiate a compromise with the local government. He has offered to assist in talks with the EC aimed at reversing the imports ban in return for their

co-operation, and has pledged to protect jobs at the various businesses. Mr Barlow said: "Nadir needs to realise that nothing he can do will ever make us walk away from this situation. We have an obligation to the creditors."

Mr Nadir, who has isolated himself in a fortified villa and is protected by a private army of between 30 and 50, is wanted in Britain on charges of theft and false accounting involving £34 million. His former aide, Elizabeth Forsyth, former chairman of South Audley Management, has been charged with two offences of handling stolen funds. Her case was adjourned until November 16.

BZW plans to move dealing rooms to Canary Wharf

By CARL MORTIMER AND NEIL BENNETT

BZW, the investment banking arm of Barclays Bank, plans to move its bond and foreign exchange dealing rooms to Canary Wharf in London's Docklands in a shake-up of its London operations.

The bank is negotiating with Canary Wharf, which emerged from administration a year ago today, to rent up to 150,000 sq ft in the development. The final decision has yet to be made but the bank is likely to move in next year.

In a memo to senior staff yesterday, the bank is said to have outlined details to move 1,000 of its 3,500 London staff to Canary Wharf. The markets division will move, along with the debt capital markets division, which runs its swaps and derivatives operations.

Today, Canary Wharf is expected to announce a major letting with Morgan Stanley, the US investment bank. The group already occupies a building in the complex, 25 Cabot Square, but is believed to be looking for more space. The letting will be the first significant dent in the project's 2 million sq ft of vacant office space.

Barclays is a member of the 11-bank syndicate that lent

£600 million to the project and now owns the shares in Sylvester Investments, the holding company of Canary Wharf Limited.

BZW's proposed move would involve leaving Ebbgate House, its complex by the River Thames in the City. The bank's corporate finance departments would move into Royal Mint Court, Barclays' current group headquarters, while the asset management division would take space in 54 Lombard Street, Barclays' traditional headquarters building, which has recently been rebuilt.

Barclays Property Holdings has been in discussions with Canary Wharf for most of this year, attempting to juggle its property requirements between the four sites. Canary Wharf originally offered the investment bank an entire 500,000 sq ft building, but last summer, BZW announced that it intended to stay put.

Canary Wharf, built by Olympia & York, the private property empire of the Reichmann brothers, crashed in 1992 when the Canadian company's banks called in their loans. It spent more than a year in administration.

New Look pulls float over price of offer

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

NEW Look, the womenswear retailer that was expected to make its market debut later this month, has pulled its flotation hours before it was due to announce its offer price.

A spokesman said the decision had been taken in the light of the weak state of the new issues market. Institutional investors have shown a diminishing appetite for new issues and the company was unable to get an acceptable price. New Look was initially expected to come to market

with a price tag of £180 million. This was scaled back to between £130 million and £150 million, but it has become clear that institutions thought the price too high even at the reduced level.

The company has been criticised by some analysts and received press attention over giving large one-off payments to directors. The spokesman said the company may try to come to the market again next spring if demand for new issues has improved.



Ebb tide: HMS Richmond prepares to sail while four of her builders, John Millican, left, George Smith, John Lowe and Peter McFarlane look on

Sainsbury attacks planners

DAVID Sainsbury, the chairman of J Sainsbury, criticised the Environment Department's increasing hostility to out-of-town retail developments and said recent tightening of planning rules would constrain expansion (Susan Gilchrist writes). Difficulty in obtaining consent for supermarkets had become "extreme".

The group unveiled a 6.5 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £444.3 million, in the 28 weeks to September 24. Operating profits rose by 10.2 per cent. Trading in the second half has started well, prompting analysts to upgrade full-year forecasts.

The interim dividend is 3.2p (5p) and will be paid out on January 18.

Tempus, page 28
Foresight pays, page 29

Paul Wilkinson reports on a bitter-sweet day in Wallsend

Last act of the dying Swan

THE news today will be full of wistful words on the demise of ship-building on the Tyne as a new frigate sails to join the fleet. HMS Richmond is the last vessel to be built in the North East and her departure signals the closure of Swan Hunter, her builder.

There will be reminiscences of building the Mauretania, which held the Blue Ribband for the fastest Atlantic crossing for 22 years, of the great tradition of constructing Britain's fighting ships, or the world's largest oil tankers, so vast they blocked the light from surrounding houses and the company had to pay people's electricity bills.

Today will be bitter-sweet for redundant workers at the Wallsend yard, proud that another fine vessel is completed on schedule, angry at an apparently uncaring government they believe has sold them down the river.

In 1974, more than 24,000 people worked in the yards. 18 months ago, before Swan's called in receiver, the figure was one tenth of that. Over the same period in the region the number of

men employed in heavy engineering has dropped from 30 per cent to 1 per cent of the total workforce. Today, more than 80 per cent of Newcastle's workers are employed in the public or service sectors.

This week, Sir Jeremy Beecham, the Labour council leader, launched a report showing that arts in Newcastle directly or indirectly provides work for nearly 3,000 people and adds £215 million a year to the local economy. "Swan Lake might not be Swan Hunter, but it employs more people than Swan's or Vickers [Tyne-side's other big defence contractor] put together," he said.

He also points out that with two universities and a further education college in Newcastle, more people derive their living from higher education than worked in the shipyards in their heyday. Alastair Balls, the Tyne and Wear Development Corporation chief executive, is an expansive Scot, prepared to voice an opinion that many in the region dare not: that shipbuilding is really no big deal any more.

"The economic base has widened," he

said. "I sense a business community which bubbles and is involved in a process of continual adaptation... and that bodes well for the future."

In an area once notorious for demarcation disputes, unions have led the country in multi-skilling and single union deals. The catalyst was Nissan's arrival ten years ago. Work practices once undreamed of are now the norm. Today there are more than 300 Far Eastern companies in the North East.

Unions are bitter about the loss of an industry where they were at their strongest. Bob Howard, secretary of the Northern TUC, is convinced that the Government's failure to step in was a political decision, aimed at an area which returns only one Conservative MP and where Conservative councillors are novelties. But he is adamant they are not behaving like dinosaurs. "Ship-building is not a dinosaur, as the Japanese and Koreans will tell you. We still need a heavy industrial base despite all the current emphasis on the service industries."

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FT-SE 100	3061.3 (-15.0)
Yield	4.13%
FT-SE All share	1530.82 (-5.59)
Nikkei	19750.65 (-165.83)
Dow Jones	3867.41 (+4.04)*
S&P Composite	468.46 (+1.04)*
US RATE	
Federal Funds	6 1/8% (6 1/8%)
Long Bond	93 1/8% (93 1/8%)
Yield	8.06% (8.06%)
LONDON MONEY	
3-month Interbank	6 1/8% (6 1/8%)
Libor long 6m	100% (101%)
STERLING	
New York	1.6345* (1.6336)
London	1.6351 (1.6315)
DM	2.4581 (2.4422)
FF	6.4215 (6.3525)
Sfr	2.0488 (2.0369)
Yen	168.35 (168.01)
£ Index	81.1 (80.5)
DOLLAR	
London	1.5033* (1.4948)
DM	5.1558* (5.1190)
FF	1.2835* (1.2458)
Sfr	97.00* (96.55)
£ Index	60.5 (60.5)
Tokyo close Yen 96.40	
NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (Jan)	\$16.90 (\$17.00)
GOLD	
London close	\$383.65 (\$383.90)
* denotes midday trading price	

Fed steps in as dollar hits low

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A BELATED rescue attempt for the dollar was launched yesterday after it hit another postwar low against the yen.

After months of what the markets perceive as benign neglect, Lloyd Bentsen, US Treasury Secretary, issued a statement saying that the dollar's recent movements were inconsistent with the fundamentals of a "strong investment-led recovery". He said that the Clinton Administration was "committed to sound economic policies that expand the economy's capacity and sustain recovery with low inflation".

Minutes after his statement, the US Federal Reserve started intervening repeatedly and, according to dealers, aggressively to support the dollar against the yen and the mark.

The dollar had slumped to a fresh low against the yen of ¥96.10 but, after intervention, rallied to ¥97.10 in late European trading. The dollar recovered to DM1.5000 from an earlier low of DM1.4950.

The Federal Reserve appeared to be intervening on its own. Hans Tietmeyer, president of the Bundesbank, said he welcomed the Fed's demonstration of its interest in a strong dollar but Germany appears not to have offered, or been asked, to help to bolster the US currency.

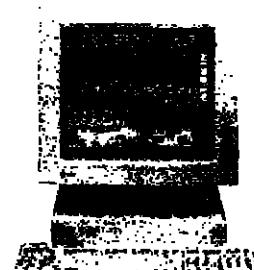
The Fed's policy-making Federal Open Market Committee meets on November 15 and speculation is now rife that the Fed will raise interest rates to address concerns in bond and currency markets.

Pennington, page 27

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Housing market 'still flat'

By Robert Miller

THE lack of consumer confidence in the economy in general is holding back any potential recovery in the housing market, the Halifax Building Society said yesterday.

According to the Halifax's monthly house price index, UK prices in October remained unchanged from September when they rose just 0.1 per cent.

Gary Marsh, spokesman for the Halifax said: "We don't expect much change in the broadly flat state of the housing market until consumers feel that the economic outlook is getting better. As and when people start to see their own futures in a more positive light and feel more secure in their jobs, then we will start to see the housing market recover along with the rest of the economy."

The Halifax said that the annual rate of house price inflation in the UK slowed in October to minus 0.9 per cent from minus 0.7 per cent reported in September. The prices of new houses continue to show sharp fluctuations, rising 1.2 per cent in October, reversing some of the sharp fall of 4.6 per cent in September.

TSB tops new table of complaints on banks

By Patricia Tehan
Banking Correspondent

FORTY per cent of companies would change their bank if the right offer came along, with the biggest complaints from customers of TSB, according to a report out today.

Among TSB customers, 20 per cent would like to switch banks, compared with only 3 per cent for National Westminster Bank, and 9 per cent for Midland and the Royal Bank of Scotland, the report said.

A TSB spokeswoman said the bank was surprised by the results of the study because its own research showed that TSB customers were no more or less likely to change banks than customers of the other big players.

A survey of 1,500 firms by Manchester Business School for *Financial Director* magazine shows that the main reasons for changing banks are the level of fees, and the introduction of new fees, closely followed by poor quality of service. Half the firms interviewed had a turnover of less than £10 million, 35 per cent had between £10 million and £100 million and the rest were large corporates.

Midland has made the biggest gains in market share, helped by the backing of HSBC, its new parent, its



Critical time: Sir Nicholas Goodison, of TSB, whose customers are dissatisfied

market share has shot up from 12 per cent in 1992, to 16 per cent.

Midland is winning three new accounts for every two lost. NatWest is gaining slightly more than it loses. Barclays and Lloyds are losing ten to other banks for every nine they gain.

A separate report published today by NatWest shows that the UK's medium-sized businesses are feeling more optimistic about trading prospects

than at any time in the past five years. Despite their optimism, most are not expecting to recruit more staff and they have remained reluctant to increase borrowings, even to finance working capital.

NatWest has a 28 per cent share of the medium-sized business market, with 25,000 accounts. The bank has been conducting a rolling survey of 200 medium-sized corporate customers since the beginning of the year. Optimism was

particularly noticeable among new businesses, nine out of ten expecting activity to pick up. More than three quarters of firms expect their own trading to improve in the next year, 64 per cent expect higher sales and 65 per cent expect the economy to improve. But less than a third were expecting to increase staffing levels.

Touche Ross, the accountant, reported that 184 companies went into receivership last month, up from 132.

Members apply to register with Imro

By Robert Miller

THE regulator for fund managers has received 17,000 individual applications for registration, which began on August 1. Philip Thorpe, chief executive of the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation, said: "Individual registration is important in Imro's ability to deter rule breaking and to punish or ban the offenders responsible."

The registration process should also prevent the problem of individuals repeating their deeds by changing companies or regulatory organisations, he added.

In the three months to September 30, Imro fined 21 members for filing late returns. These included 12 fund managers, who were fined a total of £6,050, seven authorised unit trust managers fined £2,900 and two advisers, who were fined £925.

At the end of the quarter, the regulator had eight disciplinary actions in progress. The total cost incurred in investigating and prosecuting successful disciplinary actions, including warnings, was £26,400. This sum was recovered from member firms as a result of successful actions.

Pension transfers accounted for 28 per cent of the complaints notified to Imro between July and September.

Plea to America over UK factory closures

A DELEGATION of workers and union officials travelled to America yesterday to urge Rathen, the US aerospace company, to reconsider its decision to close factories in Brough, North Wales, and Hatfield, Hertfordshire, resulting in the loss of 900 jobs. At the same time Ian McCartney, the shadow Employment Minister, wrote to Denis Picard, chairman of Raytheon, saying: "I would ask you even at this late stage to come to Britain and meet representatives of the communities most affected by your proposed closure plan."

The two factories currently have orders from Japan worth more than \$600 million, forecast to increase to \$1 billion, said Mr McCartney. He also wrote to Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, calling on him to challenge the closure plan and lead a delegation to America in a bid to stop the "asset stripping".

end pec

Pay-TV 'to dominate'

WITHIN a decade big independent television contractors, such as Granada, will need to operate their own pay-for-view channels, ideally beamed out to audiences through a digital broadcasting network, according to Charles Allen, chief executive of Granada and LWT, the London weekend company. Mr Allen said last night the biggest long-term challenge facing such companies was access to pay TV revenue. "Ten years ago subscription revenues were non-existent. In ten years time they will dwarf both the licence fee and advertising revenue," he said.

Old Trafford plan

MANCHESTER United, reigning champions of the Premiership, has submitted an application for planning consent for an extension to its Old Trafford stadium that would increase the ground's capacity by 10,500 seats and provide an additional 32 executive boxes. The present capacity is 44,000 seats and 150 boxes. The club, which is listed on the stock market, said the necessary land acquisition was still subject to negotiation. At this stage there had been no significant commitment of funds, said United.

Kantor 'optimistic'

MICKEY Kantor, America's trade representative, said he expects "to move the ball forward" in bilateral talks with Japan's trade and foreign ministers at broader Asia-Pacific meetings next week in Indonesia. Mr Kantor added that he was "not at all discouraged" by the slow progress in increasing US sales to Japan, although the US remains concerned about closed markets, such as cars. Following his decision on Tuesday to shun sanctions and offer Tokyo more time to agree a glass pact, Mr Kantor said: "Industry encouraged us to keep going."

Daimler-Benz changes

DAIMLER-BENZ, Germany's biggest industrial group, has approved the new management board line-up that will take control of the Mercedes car-to-aircraft company when Edzard Reuter, chairman, steps down next May. Jürgen Schrenpp, head of Daimler's Deutsche Aerospace division, has been appointed management board chairman for five years while Manfred Gentz, head of the group's debt financial services arm will take over as finance and human resources director, replacing Gerhard Liener who will become chief adviser to the company.

Buckingham in talks

BUCKINGHAM International, the troubled hotels to nursing homes group, is in talks with banks with a view to extending the support plan, which ended on October 31. At the time of the interim results in August, Buckingham said it was meeting the principal target of the support plan, and foresaw an extension of the existing agreement. Buckingham reduced pre-tax losses, before exceptional items, to £900,000 in the six months to May 1 from £2.5 million on turnover of £20.69 million, reduced from £24.45 million.

SB completes Sterling deal

SmithKline Beecham, the pharmaceuticals company, has completed the \$2.9 billion acquisition of Sterling Winthrop, the Eastman Kodak subsidiary.

The integration of Sterling's operations outside North America into SB Consumer Healthcare will create one of the world's leading companies in over-the-counter medicines, with a market presence in more than one hundred countries and combined sales of more than \$1.6 billion.

SB has agreed to sell Sterling's over the counter business in North America to Miles Inc, a Bayer subsidiary, for \$1 billion.

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.33	2.14
Austria Sch	18.78	18.88
Belgium Fr	33.42	40.02
Canada \$	2.355	2.185
Cyprus Cyp£	0.782	0.782
Danmark Kr	11.17	9.87
Denmark Dkr	8.14	7.44
France Fr	8.88	8.16
Germany Dr	2.59	2.58
Greece Dr	362.00	367.00
Hong Kong \$	13.27	12.27
India Rupee	1.08	0.98
Italy Lit	2605.00	2600.00
Japan Yen	173.00	160.00
Netherlands Gld	0.694	0.699
Norway Kr	2.899	2.898
Portugal Esc	11.25	10.45
S Africa Rd	281.00	243.00
Spain Ptas	167.00	167.00
Sweden Kr	12.27	11.27
Switzerland Fr	2.18	2.00
Turkey Lira	1.733	66497.0
USA \$	1.733	1.608

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to treasury cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

B.A.T INDUSTRIES

Pre-tax profit up 10%

Nine months unaudited results to 30 September 1994

REVENUE	£18,521m	+2%
PRE-TAX PROFIT	£1,497m	+10%
EARNINGS PER SHARE	30.8p	+6%

- Tobacco trading profit of £920 million rose by 13 per cent, excluding the £135 million gain on the brand exchange in 1993. Group cigarette volumes rose by 5 per cent, with particularly strong growth in exports.
- Financial services trading profit from continuing operations rose by 3 per cent to £674 million, with the general business contributing an improved £384 million and the life and investment business higher at £290 million.
- The US Federal Trade Commission's 27 October decision to oppose the acquisition of American Tobacco is subject to a judicial process, which should be completed by the first quarter of 1995. B.A.T Industries remains convinced that the transaction would actually enhance competition.
- "In terms of the Group as a whole, I am confident that, as I said at our AGM in May, there should be a worthwhile increase in our pre-tax profit for the year, enabling us to maintain our progressive dividend policy."

Sir Patrick Sheehy, Chairman

BAT hope
US takeover

Quake
grapp

□ Currency traders push for higher US rates □ A sensible strategy by Cadbury □ Time to shake up the steel industry

Putting pressure on the Fed

□ WHO cares about the dollar? Investors, that's who. And that means Lloyd Bentsen, America's Treasury secretary, was stirred by more than *amour propre* when the nation's currency plunged to post-war lows against the yen and less eye-catching 1994 lows against the mark and even sterling. He is worried less about importing inflation via the exchange rate than of overseas investors deserting if they think the dollar is on the slide. That hits asset prices and has already sent the long bond yield back above 8 per cent, eventually acting like a credit squeeze in America and hurting fragile recoveries in Japan and Europe.

The last thing the world needs, in short, is a dollar "crisis". Yet the foreign exchanges have been limbering up for a new bout for weeks. Life has not been the same for aggressive traders since they forced sterling to be devalued, managed to bust the European exchange rate mechanism and then pushed the yen rate below 100 to the dollar.

The dollar is typecast as the fall-guy. America's economy is simply miles ahead of recoveries in the rest of the world and most new American statistics suggest the gap is not narrowing. The Federal Reserve Board's many but small interest rate rises appear to be slowing America's growth rate, down to an

annualised 3.4 per cent in the third quarter. But the trade gap is widening and inflation edging up, although not obviously into the danger zone. And the latest pointer, from the purchasing managers' index of the economy, was notably buoyant.

Down on the currency dealer's desk, this thinking is set daily against interest rate differentials. Japan aside, they are not big. But both short and long-term rates in America are still lower than most in Europe and only slightly above Germany's. Result: an imbalance. No matter that knocking the dollar will slow recoveries in Japan and Europe, where exports to America are helping the break-out. From the dealer's desk, America is growing too fast.

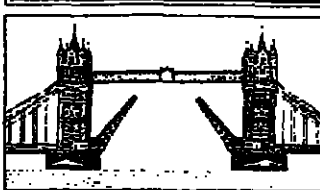
In rational mood, investors and traders readily accept that monetary policy needs a year to take effect and that managing a downturn into normal growth is tricky. Back on the desk, it looks as if nothing is happening. America's economy is still growing above its "sustainable long-term trend", a dangerous concept coming into vogue, not least

at the Bank of England. More drastic action is needed — now. That thought leaves a free run for currency action. On precedent, nothing is likely to happen for a fortnight, when the Federal Reserve's policy-making open market committee is due to meet. The Fed's Alan Greenspan will certainly then raise short rates again. The only question is how much. Meanwhile, Mr Bentsen has to be wheeled out, bearing sound thoughts and buy orders. The battle is on. The first round went to Mr Bentsen, but he needs more heavy punching to take the pressure for unsteady action off Mr Greenspan.

Enjoying the Dr Pepper fizz

□ IT WAS inevitable, in the wake of last week's amendment by Cadbury Schweppes to its 13D filing with Washington's Securities & Exchange Commission, that speculation over the prospect of a full-scale takeover bid for Dr Pepper would become a routine affair. Cadbury, with a near-26 per

PENNINGTON



cent stake, let it be known that it had held exploratory discussions over the possibility of acquiring control of the Seven-Up soft drink combine but stressed that there had been no definitive proposals. Cadbury added that it will review its investment and may visit Dr Pepper for further such discussions.

Dr Pepper's share price promptly rose \$2½ to \$24½ and, during early trading on Wall Street yesterday, was quoted at \$27½ — a seven-session gain of \$3½. Way back in August, the wisdom of Salomon Brothers, in a circular entitled *Dr Pepper — Core Brand Growth Continues*, was: "In our view, Cadbury Schweppes and Dr Pepper/

Seven Up managements have, over the past few months, become somewhat friendlier." Hardly over-friendly, however, judging from a brief message from John Albers, chairman of Dr Pepper, early last month when he opined: "We have just not found common ground to work on at this time."

Cadbury's stance, unsurprisingly, is that the company has "absolutely nothing" to add to its 13D amendment. That said, the consensus is that Mr Albers and his colleagues in Dallas may not be opposed to a takeover in principle, merely prone to a Seven-Up approach to any exit valuation. Dr Pepper's third-quarter results, disclosed shortly before Cadbury's filing, showed a 22 per cent rise in earnings per share to 33 cents, largely reflecting lower interest charges. With the shares standing at \$22½, Salomon promptly reiterated its "buy" recommendation. Those who responded must be enjoying the fizz.

Cadbury's shares have proved volatile but the board's presumed strategy of playing the long Dr Pepper game appears

eminently sensible. After all, Cadbury's book profit on its Dr Pepper shares is now nudging close on \$200 million.

Eggars' steely gaze

□ BEING in the vanguard is a risky business, as any soldier will tell you. When the strategy is sound, and luck runs strong, you cover yourself in glory. But it is never wise to get too far ahead.

As in warfare, so in industrial strategy. In the expanding markets of the 1980s, privatisation seemed a painless way for government to restructure industry without responsibility. But Britain has run so far ahead of its European partners that our companies are being hit in the rear by "friendly" fire.

During the late 1970s, European countries, Britain included, breached the Treaty of Rome to subsidise their recession-hit steel industries. Before its privatisation in 1988, British Steel received £7.8 billion in aid.

Now it is the world's second most efficient producer. Rivals in

France and Germany have used state aid to become competitive.

But the 1990s recession exposed both the unequal effects of Europe's bankruptcy laws and the continued preference of Spain, Italy and Portugal for subsidy over social conflict. Companies that should have gone bust are still churning out steel, depressing prices and depriving efficient producers, led by British Steel, of sales.

The European economic recovery is an opportunity to restructure the steel industry with less resistance. Privatisation is the desirable means. Tim Eggars should use next week's meeting with European counterparts to campaign for that objective. He should also revive the push to harmonise Europe's bankruptcy laws. Protection for the inefficient is in nobody's interest.

Tiny's tête-à-tête

□ THE City will show more than a passing interest in the outcome of today's Loro board meeting — the first to be chaired by Sir John Leahy, a non-executive director, following the retirement of René Leclézio. Tiny Rowland, joint chief executive, may be quizzed over the indemnity given to Graham Jones, a former finance director of House of Fraser. Are Dieter Bock and Rowland at war or peace?



Martin Broughton, left, and finance director David Allvey yesterday unveiled higher profits in the first nine months

BAT hopes for early US takeover clearance

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

BAT Industries, the tobacco-to-insurance group, hopes to resolve the regulatory tangle that is blocking its \$1 billion takeover of American Tobacco by the end of the year.

The New York Federal Court case brought by the Federal Trade Commission, the American regulator, to block the deal starts on December 5 and should last five days, Martin Broughton, BAT's chief executive, said yesterday.

The court's ruling, subject to any appeal, would be published by the end of the year. The commission is concerned that a BAT takeover of American Tobacco, which owns the Carlton, Pall Mall and Lucky Strike brands, would lessen competition by creating the

country's third-biggest cigarette business, with a 20 per cent market share. BAT already owns Brown & Williamson, and the Kool brand. The merged business would rank behind only Philip Morris, with 46 per cent, and RJ Reynolds, with 28 per cent.

Mr Broughton said that over the past 17 years, the courts had failed to back the FTC in about half of such cases. "We do believe that history shows we have a very real chance in court," he added that BAT did not understand the commission's stance. "We don't see any xenophobic element — we don't see it as being against BAT because BAT's a British company."

BAT unveiled third-quarter

figures that showed a strong recovery by US tobacco operations; last time, the business was mired in cigarette price wars started by Philip Morris. Trading profits from Brown & Williamson doubled, to £328 million, in the first nine months of 1994.

Pre-tax profits of the group as a whole rose by £140 million, to £1,497 million in the nine months, even though the figures last time were boosted by a £135 million one-off item from an exchange of brands. Earnings per share rose from 29.1p to 30.8p.

For the third quarter, pre-tax profits rose from £455 million to £551 million and earnings per share improved from 9.8p to 11.4p.

Total tobacco trading profit

was up 13 per cent, to £920 million, in the first nine months. On BAT's financial services side, Allied Dunbar saw a 13 per cent rise in trading profits, to £124 million, while profits from Eagle Star fell by £13 million, to £104 million.

BAT warned shareholders that the impact on its Farmers Californian insurance offshoot of claims after this year's earthquake may be larger than expected.

Large numbers of policyholders have reopened claims to seek higher pay-outs, so earlier estimates of a \$1.35 billion total bill to Farmers may be over-optimistic, Mr Broughton said.

Tempus, page 28

Butte censured by watchdog

By OUR DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

BUTTE Mining, the natural resources group whose main asset consists of possible proceeds from a \$1 billion US lawsuit, has been reprimanded by the Financial Reporting Review Panel, the accounting watchdog.

The ruling follows months of wrangling between Butte, which is subsisting on a handful of staff, and the panel over the company's 1992-93 report and accounts. The points at issue are the treatment of a bank overdraft and other financial items.

The directors have agreed to issue a supplementary note, revising the accounts and those for the previous year. The note is going out with the 1993-94 accounts, just issued, though the company indicates that it still disagrees with the ruling.

David Lloyd-Jacob, the

chairman, said the affair was "highly technical and a complete waste of public money". No public policy issue was involved. But he had possible good news for long-suffering Butte shareholders.

Mr Lloyd-Jacob is flying to New York today to serve a writ of mandamus on the Montana federal court judge considering the company's law suit there, in a bid to force a start to the long-delayed hearing.

The case, under US antiracketeering laws that automatically trebles potential damages, is against former advisers, executives and shareholders of Butte for alleged fraud in connection with the company's 1987 stock market flotation. The writ of mandamus, against Judge Paul Hatfield, is to be served with the US Appeal Court.

Complaints to Lauto rise 23%

By ROBERT MILLER

CONCERN over personal pension mis-selling raised the number of complaints received by Lauto, the outgoing regulator for life companies, by an "unwelcome" 23 per cent last year according to its final annual report published yesterday.

Lauto has handed over its regulatory responsibilities to the Personal Investment Authority, which became the sole regulator for firms selling direct to the public in July.

Kit Jebbens, the chief executive of Lauto, said that a total of 7,143 complaints had been received, an increase of 1,368 on the previous year. The biggest source of complaints concerned pension opt-outs and transfers and more than 1,000 cases had been received since the start of the year. Although the Securities and Investments Board only pub-

lished its guidelines last week on how to identify potential cases of personal pension mis-selling and how these should be compensated, Lauto has been encouraging its members to settle "clear-cut" cases without delay.

Mr Jebbens also confirmed that during the past year 15 per cent of its 650 members had failed their second round of inspection visits. These companies, he said, "still had sufficiently serious problems to trigger formal investigations. But they centre on concerns about risk to investors rather than actual harm".

Lauto is also conducting a "handful" of other investigations one of which centres on the Prudential's pension selling. Last night, the company, Britain's biggest insurer, confirmed that the investigation was still continuing.

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Bell rings happy note on housing

By RODNEY HOBSON

SALES are well ahead of last year and margins are returning to normal levels, according to Kenneth Bell, chairman of Bellway, the Newcastle housebuilder.

He added a note of caution, however: "Market conditions are changeable and the recent past tells us that we should not overreact to short-term vagaries in the market."

Bellway made pre-tax profits of £27.9 million (£16.7 million) in the year to July 31. Earnings rose to 17.3p (10.6p) a share. The shares added 14p to 208p. Turnover soared to £201.3 million (£148.2 million). House sales rose to 3,010 (2,299). The final dividend of 4.5p makes 7p (6p).

Bellway's buying of land cut net cash to only £1 million by July 31. The land bank is 12,000 units.

Tempus, page 28

Quaker pays \$1.7bn to grapple with Snapple

FROM SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH IN NEW YORK

QUAKER Oats, the American maker of the energy drink Gatorade, yesterday dug deep into its pockets to pay \$1.7 billion for Snapple, the country's favourite health drink. The union creates the third largest non-alcoholic beverage company in the US, after Coca-Cola and PepsiCo.

Quaker will fund the acquisition by selling its European pet food business and its Mexican chocolate firm.

William Smithburg, Quaker's chairman, said he would use his company's existing distribution network to introduce Snapple to the European market. As well as Gatorade, the company sells popular breakfast cereals found in most European shops.

Founded as Unadulterated Food Products in Brooklyn back in 1972, Snapple sold fruit drinks to health food shops. As Americans became more conscious of healthy ingredients, Snapple's range of naturally-flavoured, non-

carbonated drinks took off. Today, its product line consists of 52 flavours of teas and juice drinks.

The company's off-beat advertising, combined with the slogan "Made from the best stuff on earth", has kept



Quaker: healthy growth

annual sales at close to \$700 million.

Leonard Marsh, Snapple's president, said he believed the product would benefit from Gatorade's strength beyond its key regional markets. Gatorade is America's favour-

ite sports drink and has world sales of almost \$1.2 billion.

Quaker will begin a cash tender offer tomorrow for all outstanding Snapple common shares at \$14 each. Shares not bought in the tender offer will be acquired in a subsequent merger at the same price shortly after the completion of the tender offer. The price being offered is less than Snapple's closing price of \$14.25 a share on Tuesday.

Mr Smithburg said the acquisition of Snapple and proposed sale of Quaker's European pet food and Mexican chocolate divisions were part of an evolving realignment of Quaker's portfolio. Last week, Quaker said lower pet food sales in Europe, resulted in a 37 per cent decline in quarterly earnings.

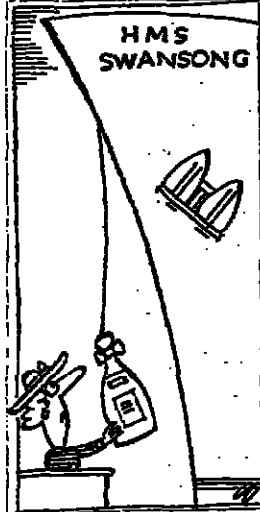
Yesterday, Snapple reported third quarter earnings of \$7 million, or 6 cents a share, compared with \$26.9 million, or 22 cents per share, in the same quarter last year.

THE
TIMESCITY
DIARYThe road to
recognition

DRIVERS who, like Mr Toad, insist on being recognised on the highways by their number plates, are in for a field day at Christie's in South Kensington on December 9. It was on January 1, 1904, with the passing of the Motor Car Act that vehicle registration began in Britain, and today there are more than 26 million vehicles on the road, each with an individual number. In the beginning, the original registration mark consisted of just one letter and one number. In 1903, A1 was issued by London County Council to Earl Russell, the then Under-Secretary for Air, after he had apparently queued all night. AAA1 was issued by Hampshire County Council in 1934. Now, 70 previously unused vehicle registration numbers from the DVLA classic collection are coming up for auction, and an indication of expected prices suggests that the Treasury coffers will be swelled considerably when the hammer stops falling on December 9. Plates under the hammer include M15 SPY (£8,000 plus), 1 BA (£12,000), 1 BM (£15,000), 1 NB (£10,000), 1 NK (£12,000). DVLA says that similar plate sales have already raised £160 million for the Treasury, and that chosen numbers and lettering are always in good taste. So a five-letter word starting with B, and meaning *derrière*, will never be seen on the road.

Off target

BOB Bauman, the new chairman of British Aerospace, yesterday committed the age-old military sin of firing on his own troops. He told shareholders at the weapons and aircraft company's special meeting to approve the VSEL bid that £14 a share was a "very attractive" offer for the company. Unfortunately for Bauman that is precisely the amount, in cash, that GEC is prepared to pay for VSEL per share. Bauman had to be reminded that BA's offer was 2.747 new shares for every VSEL share with an £11.40 cash alternative. Ouch!



Tebbit touch

IT WAS Sod's law at yesterday's annual RADAR People of the Year ceremony at the London Hilton, at which a special group of men and women who have distinguished themselves through courage, service, or achievements are recognised. A former first officer with BOAC won his title's raffle — a trip for two in a flight simulator with British Airways. Lord Tebbit, the former first officer, asked if his ticket couldn't be re-drawn. BA can't wait.

Ike's address

AT&T could hardly have chosen a more appropriate location for its main London office. For a company trying to conquer Europe with sophisticated telephony packages, St James's Square was a smart enough address. But AT&T has picked No. 31 — better known as Norfolk House, home to General Dwight D. Eisenhower in the Second World War.

COLIN CAMPBELL

ECONOMIC VIEW



ANATOLE KALETSKY

There is nothing to fear
but the Bank's fear itself

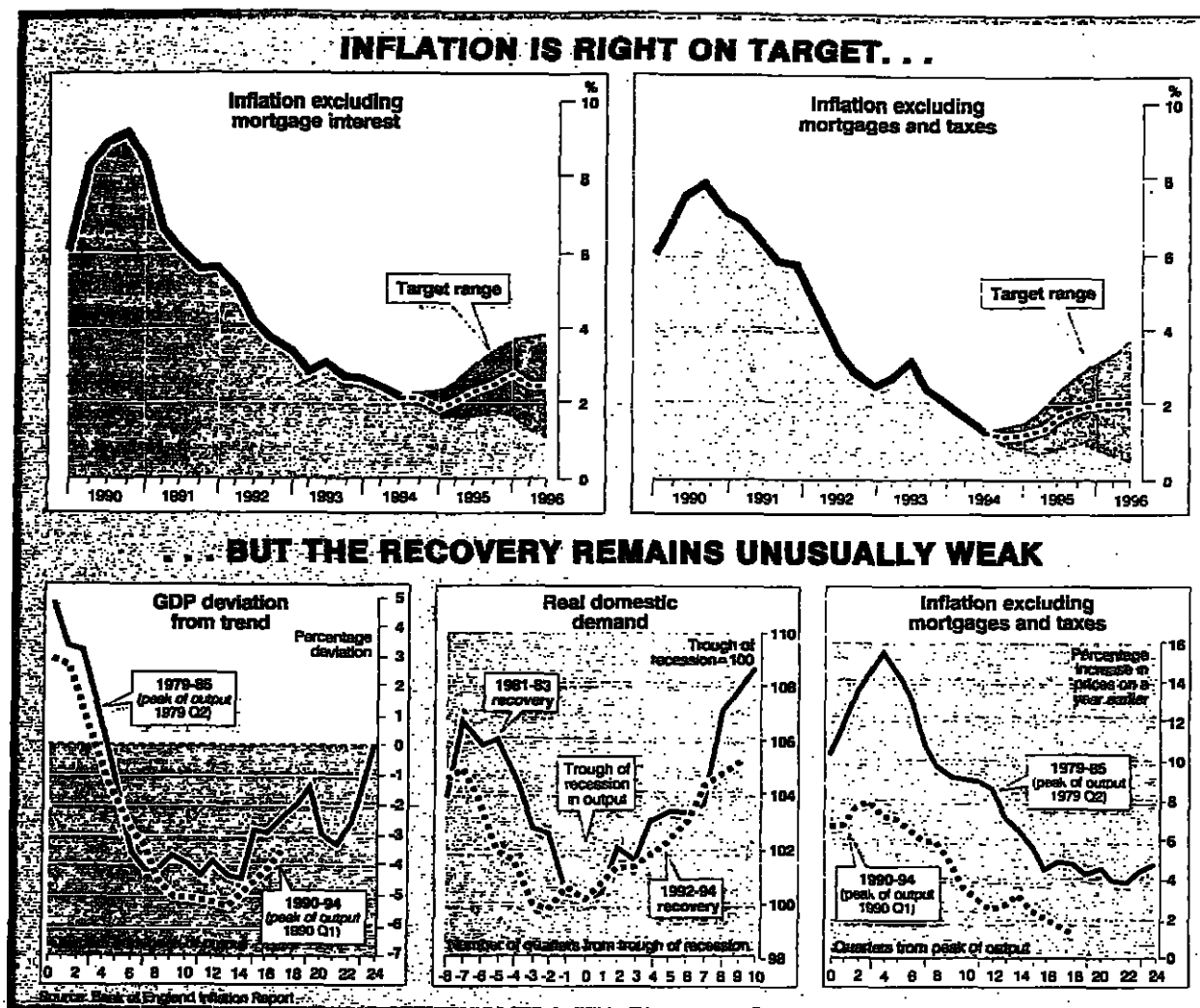
The inflation figures are on target, so why is Mr George moving the goalposts?

By the time you read this, it is quite possible that another stage will have been driven through the heart of Britain's economic recovery. Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George held one of their monthly necromancing sessions in the Chancellor's chambers at the Treasury yesterday. They gazed into crystal balls, they cut off the heads of live chickens and disembowelled doves, they consulted the oracle entombed in the computer room in Threadneedle Street and they came to a chilling conclusion. The economic outlook is too good to be true, they decided — and another increase in interest rates will be needed to crush the economy, if not this week then certainly within a month or two.

Britain's interest rates are already the "second-highest among the major countries of Europe and the G7. The only important country with higher interest rates is Britain's perennial partner in monetary mismanagement, Italy. The non-oil economy is already slowing after a mere 12 months of above-trend growth. The Treasury is already committed to raising taxes by a further 1 per cent of GDP in this month's Budget. And the Bank of England is already forecasting that inflation will hit 2.5 per cent at the end of 1996, which happens to be the precise mid-point of the officially announced target range of 1 to 4 per cent.

This is not enough to satisfy a deflationary zealot like Mr George. He wants still higher interest rates and made this unusually clear on Tuesday in the quarterly Inflation Report. The report's main argument is so simple it might hardly seem worth stating, were it not for the Bank's decision to base on this flimsy foundation its entire intellectual case for higher rates. In any economic forecast there is always a margin of error, and this is especially true of a forecast aiming two years ahead. The Bank points out that 2.5 per cent inflation by the end of 1996 is now the "single most likely outcome", assuming that no change in interest rates in the next two years. But the Bank adds that the statistical probability of inflation actually ending up at precisely this level is "negligible".

What matters, therefore, is not the Bank's precise forecast, but the distribution of possible outcomes around this central projection. Yet on this score, too, one might have expected the Bank to be satisfied, since the margin of error in the forecast now coincides exactly with the official target range for inflation: of 1 to 4 per cent. This is shown in the first of the top two charts, reproduced from the Bank's report. The



second chart, showing the Bank's own preferred measure of underlying inflation, which excludes both mortgage interest and indirect taxes, suggests that the news on inflation is actually even better, with the range of probable outcomes falling clearly below the 1 to 4 per cent range. Here, however, the Bank offers two more caveats.

The first is simply a pedantic legalism connected with the status of the inflation target. The Bank claims that the true target range is now 1 to 2.5 per cent since Norman Lamont promised, in a fateful aside, when he announced the original target, that the Government would aim to reduce inflation to "the lower half of the [1 to 4 per cent] target range by the end of the Parliament". If this is so, then to aim for 2.5 per cent inflation by 1996 is not ambitious at all. The central projection aimed for should not be 2.5 per cent, but somewhere near the middle of the new target range, ie 1.75 per cent.

But on the Bank's own logic, even a 1.75 per cent objective would not be sufficiently ambitious. If the Government were really determined to keep inflation below 2.5 per cent at all costs, then it would ensure the whole of the margin for error shown in the top charts was pushed below 2.5 per cent. Since this margin of error is about three percentage points wide, this would mean setting a new target range for inflation from minus 0.5 to plus 2.5 per cent. The midpoint of this range would be 1 per cent and interest rates would go up until the Bank's inflation projections showed a "most likely outcome" of 1 per cent inflation by the end of 1996.

The Bank's second caveat concerns the probable distribution of errors shown in the

first quarter of 1994. This was the same rate of growth as in the first two years after the 1980-81 recession. But while the last recovery accelerated sharply from 1983 onwards, the present one is slowing and should soon slow even more. Personal consumption and investment grew at annual rates of 2.4 per cent and 2 per cent in the first two years of the present recovery. But in the latest quarter, slowed to annual rates of 0.8 per cent and -2.8 per cent. The Bank also confirms a point frequently made in this column: that inflation can easily remain steady or go on falling, even when the economy is growing at a brisk pace, well above its trend rate.

Why, then, is the Bank so sceptical about the seemingly favourable inflation outlook? The reasons its cities are all connected with the unusual degree of competition in Britain's manufacturing, retailing and labour markets. This competition has prevented higher commodity prices being passed on to wholesalers and consumers and have kept labour costs under control. Surely, implies the Bank, this cannot be expected to go on?

The reasons for the Bank's anxiety boil down to one question: has the structure of the British economy improved in the past decade? If the economy has become more competitive, then it is easy to see why inflation has turned out unexpectedly low and to believe that it will remain low. If, on the other hand, nothing has improved, then the Bank's fears about the future may be justified. But then it is hard to explain why the economy has performed so well in the past two years, confounding all the cynical pundits, from John Major downwards, who flatly predicted that devaluation would lead to an inflationary

6 If monetary policy keeps being tightened, the recovery will soon start to flag

have grown more strongly than expected in the past year and may continue to do so. Perhaps the Bank does not believe the economic outlook is quite as strong as many in the market now assume.

That, certainly, seems to be the message from much of the report, which keeps referring to indicators of growth slowing, and noting that consumption, investment and domestic demand have all been unusually weak in the present recovery, by the standards of past business cycles.

It notes, for example, that domestic demand grew at an annual rate of 2.4 per cent in the first two years of the present recovery (from the second quarter of 1992 until

Sainsbury rings
up the benefits
of foresight

The retailer began to diversify earlier than its rivals, says Susan Gilchrist

The name J Sainsbury has become synonymous with supermarket retailing in Britain. The company has dominated the business for years and has spearheaded radical changes in the past decade.

Headlines have focused on its British supermarket operations, but Sainsbury has been quietly developing other businesses capable of fuelling profit growth when its food retailing side runs out of steam. In short, it has reinvented itself.

Today, with Savacentre, Homebase, Shaw's and now a stake in Giant Foods in the US, Sainsbury has a diversified retail portfolio covering several markets and countries. None of its competitors in UK food retailing can claim the same.

Yesterday's interim results demonstrate that its strategy is bearing fruit. The group delivered a 10.2 per cent rise in operating profit, largely driven by a sparkling performance from its businesses outside UK food retailing. As David Sainsbury, the chairman and chief executive, says: "Our retail subsidiaries are now having a significant effect on group profitability."

These businesses account for almost 13 per cent of group operating profit, and that is likely to rise to almost 20 per cent in the next four years, according to Philip Dorgan, of Goldman Sachs.

The group has long recognised that the UK food retailing market would come under pressure and decided in the late 1970s to diversify beyond it. "We thought we might start to see what we are now seeing in the industry," Mr Sainsbury says. "We always thought we could not go on growing at the same rate."

He explains that the plan was either to take the group's food retailing expertise abroad or to move into other retail sectors in the UK, but never to do both at the same time. "We were determined only to diversify in one dimension at a time," he says.

The first Savacentre store opened in 1977. Homebase followed in 1981 and the first investment in Shaw's was made in 1982: full ownership came five years later. Last month, diversification took

another step forward with the acquisition of a 16 per cent stake in Giant Foods. Mr Sainsbury says there is a substantial common ground between these businesses and the core supermarket operations. "They all use our key skills in buying, systems, property and own-brand development."

He says they also share the same business philosophy of offering value for money and quality. "We didn't want to go into a discounting environment, as we felt we would not be comfortable with that." He adds that the businesses have taken longer to develop than originally envisaged, but Sainsbury has always taken the long-term view. It invested heavily in Shaw's throughout the recession, but refused to participate in the race for DIY space. Patience has been rewarded. The performance of Shaw's is improving dramatically and Homebase has emerged as one of the winners in the DIY market. Timing could not have been better. The squeeze in the supermarket business has come, and Sainsbury, unlike its rivals, is ready for it. Capital expenditure is being switched from build-

6 We thought growth could not go on at the same rate

ing new supermarkets to expanding other operations. Rival supermarket groups look on enviously. As Mr Sainsbury says: "To the extent that they have diversified at all, they have come to it much later and with smaller diversifications."

Only Tesco has succeeded in developing an alternative growth leg, with its Cateau supermarket chain in France and Global in Hungary. But these are too small to have any impact on the group as a whole and this year's acquisition of William Low, the Scottish food retailer, has tied Tesco more tightly to the UK.

Apart from increasing the stake in Giant, Mr Sainsbury says, there are no immediate plans to diversify further. He believes the building blocks are in place.

But while the group has been transformed in the past 15 years, some things never change. When asked what he does for a living, Mr Sainsbury admits, he still says he is a grocer, rather than a retailer. "That is what I am most proud of."

BUSINESS LETTERS

SIB report on mis-selling proposes wrong action

From T. Y. Darling
Sir, The Securities and Investments Board's report on alleged mis-selling would surely have captured the headlines were it not in competition with news even more depressing. It calls for action — but not of the kind the report proposes.

1. The Financial Services Act 1986 has failed in its avowed purpose and the so-called regulatory bodies it has spawned should be abolished. The costs of setting up and running these bodies, the

"fines" they have been imposing and the "compensation" they are now proposing are paid for ultimately by innocent policy-holders.

2. The idea of being paid compensation for having been given what may turn out to be bad advice should be crushed. We are bombarded with poor advice every day. If we were all to accept it without question, of course we should lose our money; but in no other context would we expect "compensation" for the

results of our own stupidity.

That the SIB sees justice in the proposal that the wise should compensate the foolish is in itself justification for its abolition. There are circumstances under which the law provides for reparation but this once proud nation is rapidly accepting the pathetic notion that every misfortune is the fault of someone else!

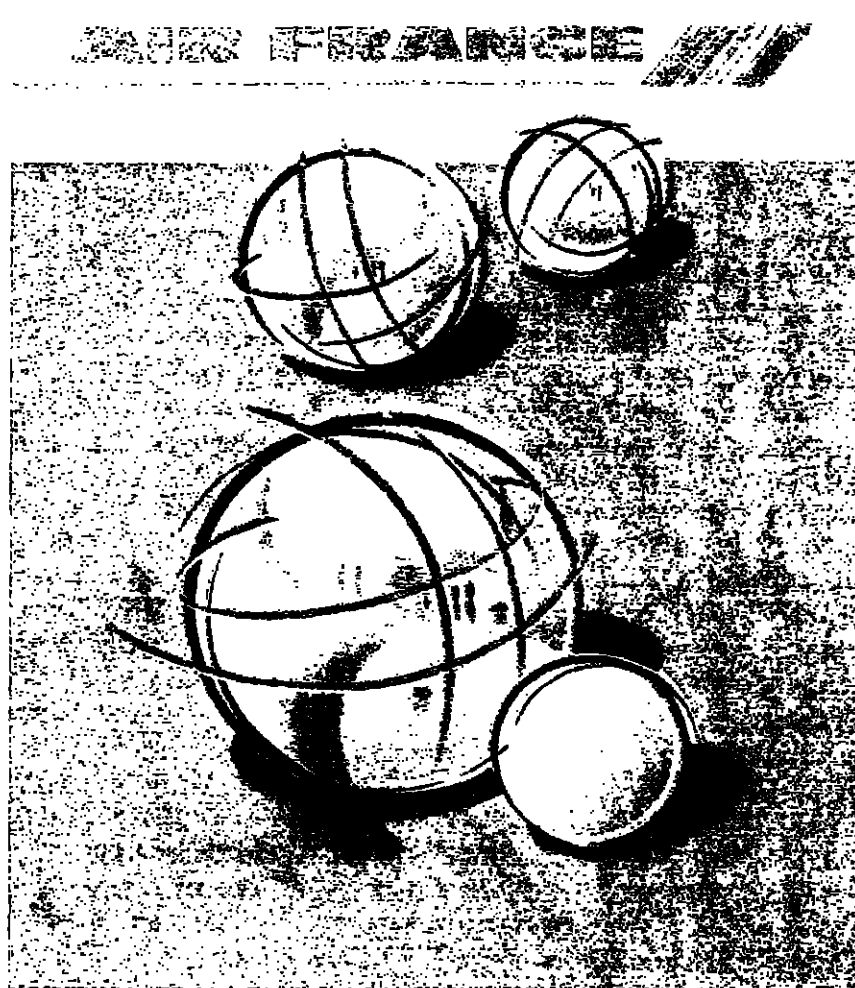
Yours sincerely,
T. Y. DARLING,
16 Hermitage Drive,
Edinburgh.

The sheer scale
of derivatives

From François Debertrand
Sir, An appreciation of the sheer scale of trading in derivatives is only gradually unfolding. Analysts estimate that such trading worldwide amounts to £100 trillion per day.

To put the above figure into perspective, and assuming that: 1) derivative dealing is taking place world-wide 24 hours a day; and 2) UK gross domestic product (GDP) is currently approximately £690 billion per annum at current prices.

then, on average, a figure equivalent to annual UK GDP is being traded every ten minutes. The scale of derivative trading is presumably the background to calls for this activity to be more clearly understood. Yours faithfully, FRANÇOIS DEBERTRAND, General Manager, Constantin, Russell Square House, 10-12 Russell Square, WCI.

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Eggar rejects plea to back action on EC steel subsidies

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

TIM Eggar, the energy minister, has rejected a plea from British Steel for the Government to join its legal action against the European Commission over subsidies to rival European steelmakers.

The rejection came despite a claim by Brian Moffat, British Steel's chairman, that every other EU government, except Denmark, had agreed to oppose his company's action.

Meanwhile, Richard Caborn, the chairman of the Trade and Industry Select Committee, claimed the Government was not doing enough to defend British companies from unfair competition. His committee heard yesterday that despite 11 months of negotiations, continental steelmakers have yet to implement a £6.5 billion EU-sponsored plan to cut surplus capacity.

British Steel, the world's fourth largest steelmaker which receives no subsidies, says it is being damaged by state-subsidised production

elsewhere in Europe. It has begun a legal action claiming the Commission has failed to enforce a ban on subsidies enshrined in the Treaty of Rome. It is also unhappy with arrangements under Article 95 that are designed to tackle the market distortions arising from illegal aid.

In evidence to the committee's inquiry into the steel industry, Mr Moffat said: "It would be nice if the British Government would go along with British Steel in their fight against subsidies as they have with British Airways." He added that other community governments had agreed to join the EC's defence.

Challenged by Mr Caborn to support British Steel, however, Mr Eggar insisted that the Government was bound by its agreement in December last year to accept subsidies for six steelmakers in exchange for proposals designed to cut capacity.

He conceded that the goal of

cutting 19 to 26 million tonnes of capacity was unlikely to be achieved, but said Britain had to honour its agreement.

Mr Eggar will meet directors of British Steel and the British Iron and Steel Producers' Association today to discuss what position he should take on steel at a meeting of European industry ministers next Tuesday. Bispa officials will urge him to signal Britain's determination to veto any rise in subsidies.

Little progress has been made with five of the six schemes to cut capacity. Revised proposals for the sixth producer, Eko Stahl, of eastern Germany, will be produced at next week's meeting. According to Bispa, these are likely to involve a plea for substantial extra aid to ensure the sale of Eko Stahl to Cockerill-Sambre after the withdrawal of Riva, the private sector Italian steelmaker.

Pennington, page 27



John Clark is seeking to rebuild BET's earnings

BET prepares to maintain market share by buying

By SARAH BAGNALL

BET, the business services group, is looking for bolt-on acquisitions to help maintain market share in the continuing competitive environment.

John Clark, chief executive, said the plan was to rebuild the company's earnings via acquisitions and organic growth. He said: "Having turned the business round, we are now trying to build a growth company. There is not going to be a lightning bolt coming down from the sky — growth will be steady."

BET only returned to profit in the year to May after a three-year restructuring programme that resulted in a group with four core areas — business services, distribution, plant hire and textile services.

The company is interested in expanding its distribution and electronic security businesses. It is seeking opportunities to take over small distribution businesses in the petrochemical and chemical industries in the UK or US.

Mr Clark's remarks came as he announced a 25 per cent

rise in pre-tax profits to £58 million in the six months to October 1. Profits were helped by a £5.2 million exceptional profit on the sale of a business. The shares rose 3p to 114½p.

Turnover fell slightly from £880.1 million to £863.8 million, but operating profits rose 13 per cent to £56 million. Mr Clark said the company needed to improve productivity in order to offset pricing pressure and cost inflation. "These actions are key to 1994-95 earnings growth. We have a lot to do before getting underlying performance to the levels I would like," Mr Clark said.

As indicated at the year end, BET raised the interim dividend 20 per cent from 1p to 1.2p. The dividend, which will be paid to shareholders on January 9, is being funded out of earnings of 4.5p a share, up from 3.3p last time.

Capital expenditure more than doubled to £78 million, and as a result, net cash fell from year-end levels of £67 million to £18 million.

Temps, page 28

Medeva asthma deal in US

By OUR CITY STAFF

MEDEVA, the pharmaceutical group, has been given exclusive rights in America and Canada to sell two asthma drugs in a new type of CFC-free inhaler.

The dry powder, multi-dose inhaler, trademarked Pulvinal, and the asthma drugs, salbutamol (albuterol) and beclomethasone, are being developed by Chiesi Farmaceutici, an Italian company.

The drugs are about to enter the final stage of clinical trials in the US. Medeva said incidence of asthma was rising and the US market was worth \$1 billion. Medeva will pay Chiesi royalties that are said to be in line with industry norms of between 5 and 15 per cent. Asthma drugs are currently delivered by metered dose inhalers, which require propellants, such as CFCs to deliver the active ingredient to the lungs.

Bill Bogie, Medeva's chief executive, said the agreement gave the company access to the next generation of delivery systems and reinforced its presence in the US market for respiratory treatments.

Medeva's shares remained at 174p.

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"Photocopier Selling Practices", published in March 1994, writes: "Misrepresentation, obfuscation and deceit are the things that are objectionable."

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BUSINESS RESTRUCTURING

Frederick Cooper best for five years

HEAVY restructuring has pulled pre-tax profits back to the level enjoyed at the end of the 1980s for Frederick Cooper, the specialist engineer. Pre-tax profits rose 53 per cent to £6.3 million from £4.1 million in the year to July 1. Even stripping out the profit from the sale of a business, the underlying operations made a profit of £5.5 million, the best since 1989.

Earnings per share rose from 3.5p to 6p and the final dividend of 1.7p makes 2.5p (2.2p). The shares gained 4p to 94p. Ed Kirk, chairman, says the restructuring is almost complete. There are three non-core businesses left with total turnover of £7 million, less than 10 per cent of group turnover of £89.1 million. One is likely to go during the financial year. With gearing down from 42.3 per cent to 38.7 per cent during the past financial year and now standing at 20 per cent, acquisitions are possible, but Mr Kirk says growth will be mainly organic.

Tele-Cine price set

TELE-CINE Cell Group, the film, television and video facilities company, will be capitalised at £20 million when it comes to the stock market on November 10 in a 170p share placing. Existing shareholders and the company are looking to raise £8 million from the sale of 40 per cent of the group. Tele-Cine proposes to use its £3.6 million of new funds to boost working capital and reduce debts. In 1993, the company made pre-tax profits of £1 million. In the current year, it forecasts pre-tax profits of not less than £2.2 million.

Bologna banks fight bid

CREDITO Romagnolo, the Bolognese bank facing a two trillion lire (£750 million) hostile bid from Credito Italiano, its Milanese rival, has proposed a defensive merger with a friendly bank from its home town. The Credito Italiano bid last Wednesday was priced at a 40 per cent premium to Romagnolo's share price. Market analysts said Romagnolo's surprise proposal to merge with Casse Emiliano Romagnole (CAER), a savings bank group from Bologna, could be enough to block the bid.

Akzo Nobel up 75%

AKZO Nobel, the Dutch-Swedish chemical group, reported a 75 per cent rise in third-quarter net profits, helped by increased sales and cost reductions. Net profit rose to 322 million guilders (£118 million) in the three months to September 30 from 184 million guilders. Comparable profits last year were dented by a 55 million guilder extraordinary charge for realized and planned divestitures of money-losing activities. Sales rose 3.8 per cent.

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Futures drive shares lower

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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Futures drive shares lower

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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1989 Low Company							1989 Low Company						
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Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Law Report November 3 1994

Court of Appeal

Proving allegation of personation When action against solicitor arises

Thompson v Dann and Another

In re a local government election for Eel Brook Electoral Division of Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough Council

Before Lord Justice Beldam and Mr Justice Buxton

[Judgment October 21]

In order to support an allegation of personation it was not sufficient merely to show that a voter had not voted when a ballot paper attributed to him had been found among the votes, but it had to be shown that another person had personated the particular person who had not voted.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved judgment in refusing to declare a vote void for personation in a special case stated brought by the petitioner, Mr Simon Thompson, a Liberal Democrat candidate, against the local election result for the Eel Brook ward of Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough Council in which the first respondent, Mr Billy Dann, Labour, was declared by the returning officer, the second respondent, to be elected as a councillor.

Mrs Tunnell, an elector in the ward was badly handicapped and she appointed the petitioner's election agent as her proxy under section 8 of the Representation of the People Act 1985. When her proxy attended the polling station and tried to record Mrs Tunnell's

proxy vote, the presiding officer told him that Mrs Tunnell had also been voted.

The proxy contacted Mrs Tunnell who told him that she had not voted and accordingly he returned and voted with a "tendered ballot paper". That vote was set aside pursuant to rule 34 of the Local Elections (Principal Areas) Rules (SI 1986 No 2214).

The petitioner, defeated by Mr Dann by one vote, sought a scrutiny of the votes recorded. That was conducted by Master Topley who confirmed as accurate the number of votes given to Mr Dann and the petitioner respectively.

Following the court's decision and the drawing of lots in court the petitioner was declared elected.

Mr Michael Burrell for the petitioner; Mr Gavin Millar for Mr Dann; Mr John Cavanagh for the returning officer.

LORD JUSTICE BELDAM said that for the purposes of the special case it was accepted that Mrs Tunnell was entitled to a proxy vote and that the petitioner was entitled to the addition of that vote. The votes thus recorded for the petitioner and Mr Dann would then be equal. In that case, the result would be decided by drawing lots in court.

The petitioner contended, however, that in addition, the vote recorded on voting paper 1838 should be disallowed, as being void under section 166 of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

The petitioner contended, however, that in addition, the vote recorded on voting paper 1838 should be disallowed, as being void under section 166 of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

The respondents contended that that vote should continue to count because it had not been proved to have been given by a person guilty of corrupt or illegal practice.

The petitioner contended that once it was established that the electoral register was marked to show that Mrs Tunnell had voted and it was proved that she had not completed the ballot paper marked with the number recorded against her name, it was an irresistible inference that another person had impersonated her and voted in her name.

The respondents' principal contention was that there was no evidence of an essential ingredient in the offence, namely the intention to vote in the name of another.

The court could not validly draw the inference of personation from the marking of the register, the disputed vote and the fact that Mrs Tunnell did not attend to vote. The explanation for the disputed vote was far more likely to be a mistake on behalf of the polling clerk marking up the register than the deliberate impersonation of Mrs Tunnell by an unknown person.

Mr Burrell submitted that it was possible for the petitioner to rely on the presumption of regularity to prove that whoever cast the vote on ballot paper 1838 must have told the polling clerk that she was Mrs Tunnell.

He relied on the procedure set out in the case stated for the issue of ballot papers and the questioning of voters to show that if the

procedure were properly followed personation must have taken place.

In his Lordship's judgment, the presumption of regularity had to be founded as a matter of inference on the mere fact that the register had been marked to show that Mrs Tunnell had voted. The polling clerk was performing a repetitive task which was not carried out on a day-to-day basis.

The register was marked early in the day, possibly at a time when the polling station was very busy with people voting on their way to work. To infer that the registrar was questioning the voter must have been carried out to the letter, and that therefore the voter deliberately misrepresented herself as Mrs Tunnell carried the presumption of regularity well beyond its proper bounds.

His Lordship could not infer merely from the fact of the register being marked that a voter personated Mrs Tunnell. Indeed if his Lordship were called upon to express a view, he would regard it as much more probable that a mistake was made.

His Lordship would therefore hold that the petitioner had failed to prove personation by a person or persons unknown to the required standard.

Mr Justice Buxton delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Nicholson Graham & Jones; Steel & Shamash; Lewis Silkin.

Hopkins v MacKenzie

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Mummery and Lord Justice Saville

[Judgment October 26]

A claimant's action against his solicitor for failure to maintain the value of his medical negligence claim did not for the purposes of the Limitation Act 1980 arise until such time as that negligence claim had been struck out for want of prosecution even though its value had been much reduced before that time.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Mr Eric Hopkins, from the decision of Mr Stewart Boyd, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, on January 28, 1994, ordering that the plaintiff's writ and statement of claim against his former solicitor, John Rothwell MacKenzie, formerly practising as the firm James R. White & Co, be struck out.

Mr Adrian Whitfield, QC, and Mr Andrew Spink for the plaintiff; Mr Rupert Jackson, QC, and Miss Sue Carr for the solicitor.

LORD JUSTICE SAVILLE said that in 1982 the plaintiff had issued a writ against his solicitor alleging negligence in relation to an operation performed on him in 1979. In October 1985 the hospital governors issued a summons for an order striking out the action for want of prosecution. On February 4, 1986 Master Grant made that order.

On January 27, 1992, the plaintiff issued a writ against the solicitor who had acted for him in his medical negligence claim, alleging that through his carelessness he had lost all prospect of recovering damages from the hospital. The solicitor in his defence pleaded that the plaintiff's claim against him was statute barred.

Thus the question for decision was whether the plaintiff's cause of action against the solicitor arose before January 27, 1986, that is, more than six years before the issue of the present writ.

The deputy judge concluded that it had: the medical negligence claim, he said, had originally had some value; the duty of the solicitor was to take care to maintain and realise that value and had been a failure to exercise such care with the result that from mid-February 1984 there was an obvious risk that the action would be struck out.

The judge had no doubt that by, if not before January 27, 1986, the alleged negligence of the solicitor had reduced the value of the plaintiff's medical negligence claim to close to vanishing point even though the action was not actually struck out until a week later.

It followed, the judge concluded,

that all the necessary ingredients of the tort of negligence, a duty of care, breach of that duty and damages from that breach, were in place more than six years before the issue of the writ.

A cause of action for the tort of negligence only arose when there had been a breach of duty resulting in loss or damage recognised by the law. The question was whether the plaintiff had sustained such loss or damage before the proceedings were actually struck out.

Mr Jackson, relying on *Forster v Outred & Co* (1982) 1 WLR 89; *D. W. Moore & Co Ltd v Ferrier* (1988) 1 WLR 267 and *Bell v Peter Browne & Co* (1990) 2 QB 495, submitted that the judge had reached the right result for the right reasons.

His principal submission was that the medical negligence claim was one for economic loss; that that cause of action had a value; once there was a real risk that it would be struck out, that value was materially diminished and the alleged negligence of the solicitors had therefore caused quantifiable economic loss to the plaintiff long before the action was actually struck out.

Alternatively, Mr Jackson submitted that on the plaintiff's own pleaded case it was by the beginning of 1986 at the latest

inevitable, or highly probable, that the action would be struck out, so that from that time the plaintiff had through the alleged negligence of the solicitor, lost the chance in action he had previously possessed, namely his cause of action for medical negligence.

Both submissions were unacceptable. The authorities made it clear that what had to be shown was actual loss or damage, not future loss or damage, however likely it was that that would occur.

Until February 4, 1986, the plaintiff had not lost his cause of action. Were Mr Jackson right in his alternative submission then in all the cases cited, the cause of action would have come into being at an earlier time than that held to be the case.

Mr Jackson's first submission failed for much the same reasons. As at January 27, 1986, the plaintiff's cause of action for his medical negligence claim remained in being.

Certainly the plaintiff was by then potentially worse off as a result of the alleged negligence, since he was highly likely, if not foredoomed, to lose his cause of action. But he had not at that stage suffered that loss or damage before the action was struck out: the plaintiff had not actually been affected by the negligence.

What on the plaintiff's case had

been lost was the right to advance his medical negligence claim in a court of law. That loss was not sustained until the action was struck out. A cause of action for diminishing the value of a claim was not the same thing as a cause of action for losing the right to advance that claim in a court of law.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE, agreeing, said that the plaintiff sued in respect of loss or damage suffered on February 4, 1986. He did not sue in respect of some earlier depreciation in value of his right of action.

It could not be assumed that the value of the right at the date of striking out was the equivalent of, or less than, its value at the earlier date. So the plaintiff's cause of action against the solicitor did not fully mature until the later date.

Since the plaintiff could rely on whatever cause of action was available to him, how could it be defeated by a defence in a cause of action on which he did not rely?

There being no answer to that question, the limitation period could only have run from February 4, 1986. It did not run from some earlier date.

Lord Justice Mummery gave a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Irwin Mitchell, Sheffield; Pinsent & Co.

Foreign sentence disparity of no assistance

Regina v Lillie

Before Lord Taylor of Gosforth, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Potts and Mr Justice Sachs

[Judgment October 11]

Disparity between prison sentences of six months in Holland and five years in England afforded no assistance to a person sentenced in England for assisting in the United Kingdom in the trafficking of heroin into Holland.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing an appeal by Gavin Lillie, aged 32, from a five-year prison sentence passed at Winchester Crown Court (Judge Tucker, QC) on conviction after a two-day trial on a count of contravening section 20 of the 1971 Act.

Mr Anthony Berry, QC, as assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, said that central to the submission at trial and on appeal was the fact that two co-offenders were tried in

Holland and sentenced to six months imprisonment, while the appellant, tried in England, received five years.

It was submitted that, since the other two had received only six months, it was disparate and unfair that the appellant, convicted in England, should receive five years.

The present case was different from *R v Faulkner* (1978) 63 Cr App R 253 where the appellant was sentenced in England, although the offence had involved conduct in Denmark, where the maximum sentence was very much less than the maximum in England.

The present case differed, it was submitted, because two of the actors in the trafficking were sentenced to six months and that fact gave the appellant a legitimate sense of grievance.

The judge in sentencing the appellant said that the offence of doing an act in this country of assisting in the importation of cannabis into Holland was unusual. He did not regard himself as in any way bound, or even

helped, by the sentencing policies of Holland.

He had said: "If they give extraordinarily lenient sentences to the importers of cannabis, then it is small wonder, perhaps, that so much drug dealing comes from Holland and in particular from Amsterdam. In those circumstances we in this country, it seems to me, have to deal with offences of this sort on the same basis as if this was an importation into this country."

The judge went on to say: "I am afraid I cannot accede to a request for leniency because these courts in this country have got to take a lead, if need be, in the fight against drug dealing generally in the world, which is a great public disadvantage."

The Lord Chief Justice said that their Lordships entirely agreed with all those words. The disparity in sentences in the present case afforded no more assistance to the appellant than the difference in maximum sentences did in *Faulkner*. The judge's approach was correct. The five-year sentence had to stand.

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ACCOUNTANCY

Innovation comes at a price

The role of the accountant is being diminished by management changes.

Bob Sweeting looks at the effects

The corporate world is buzzing with talk of the innovative management techniques many companies have adopted to keep ahead of the competition. Accountants working in commerce and industry should carefully assess the combined effects of these changes.

The corporate environment is now faster, more streamlined and full of jargon than ever before. Multinational companies have led much of this change by importing the latest financial management techniques from Japan and elsewhere.

Meanwhile, the corporate accountant has responded by throwing off the traditional "bean-counter" image for something more purposeful. While the company accountant has been pro-active in joining the management "teams", there is still a requirement for appropriate controls.

Because of this new team mentality — with the company accountant participating closely in management decisions and better understanding the full range of processes which makes the business tick — some observers could be forgiven for thinking that

the role of the commercial accountant has diminished.

One chief executive explained that, in his business, everyone was required to accept a set of basic business principles. When asked how accounting fitted in, he said: "Well, many of our manufacturing techniques and practices come from Japan, and having had a look there, we found that accounting was considered of no great importance."

Here lies the conundrum. We know that accountants play a vital role in ensuring the long-term financial viability of a company, yet new methods of management appear to belittle the traditional accountancy role. So what to do?

First, we need to ascertain whether these changes in approach are going to stay, and if so, do they justify a significant redefinition of accounting and the way in which accountants work? Surveys and anecdotal evidence suggest that the answer is "yes".

In that case, we should take notice of where we are at. The new business environment is typified by networks of companies participating in customer supplier chains. The boundaries within these com-



Bob Sweeting's report urges accountants to be vigilant

panies are disappearing and middle management is being radically cut back.

Much of what middle management was doing is now being carried out by advanced information technology systems, giving rise to concern. The increasing take-up of electronic data interchange systems also has the potential to

revolutionise the way companies do business.

"Empowerment" of the workforce has meant that supervisors and shopfloor workers have a greater awareness of the running of the business. This has enabled companies to be run more flexibly, than before, with low variable and administrative costs.

All this means that accountants have been left with little to sustain traditional models of planning and control. Often, in large companies that have restructured, clear accounting responsibility centres no longer exist, and individual employees, formerly engaged in accounting roles, no longer have well-defined tasks to perform. Who, for instance, is going to oversee the internal control procedures given the much reduced, and possibly irrelevant, formal control systems?

The Cadbury Report proposed a series of safeguards companies should be implementing to ensure proper accountability and strong internal controls, an area in which the company accountant comes into his own. How should these safeguards be introduced without stifling the growth potential of the companies that have adopted the new managerial regimes? This is also an area for exploration that, in my view, the profession should be looking in to — soon.

Bob Sweeting, senior lecturer at the Manchester School of Management, is the author of *Balancing Management Controls and Corporate Innovations — A Technical Focus*, published by the ICAEW's Faculty of Finance and Management, available price £5 from Chris Jackson, ICAEW, PO Box 133, Chartered Accountants' Hall, Moorgate Place, London EC2P 3BJ. Telephone: 071-420 8486.

Too many owners spoil pension fund

THE question of the ownership of a pension fund should not be a difficult one to answer. To an ordinary member of the public, it is obvious. Even if Robert Maxwell's great robbery had never taken place, most people would assert that the pension funds belong to its members. There could be some fancy footwork about legal niceties, the composition of the trustees or the nature of its disclosure in the accounts, for example, but fundamentally it belongs to the members. About that, there can be no doubt. The only point of the fund is to provide for its members on retirement. They are the ultimate recipients of the fund. It is held on trust and invested on their behalf.

Unfortunately, when it comes to accounting standards, this principle is not enshrined. As the new edition of UK GAAP argues, SSAP24, which has been in force since 1988, takes the opposite view. "The philosophy of the standard", the book states, "rests on the premise that the pension fund is in substance a vehicle of the employer company and that any surplus held by the fund should be regarded as a company asset, even if it is not directly shown as such on the company's balance-sheet". The basis of this assumption is that "the employer has to bear whatever cost is needed to provide the pensions promised to the workforce after taking account of their own (fixed) contributions; any scheme surplus therefore belongs to the employer". The problem is that pensions were once small beer. A company had a pension scheme, it chuntered on quietly. It was administered by some pleasant middle manager. In the early seven-

ties, I audited such a pension fund. The company concerned was a large engineering enterprise. The audit reflected the importance attached to the fund. Once the main audit was halfway through, you started looking at the pension fund, which appeared as a small section of the main work. It was a time when inflation was taking off and tough times lay ahead. The man in charge of the pension fund was in good humour: on his calculations, which were later proved correct, in a very few years the pension fund would be larger than the company. Only he had spotted this trend. By the late seventies, everyone had spotted it and when it came to the recession at the start of the 1980s, finance directors realised that they could spare

themselves the most embarrassing of financial disasters by simply grabbing as much of the pension's assets as they could. Or, put another way, you paid an actuary to tell the trustees what amount was a pension fund surplus. A member of the scheme might take the view that a surplus was good news for the scheme's pensioners. Not so, was the prevailing argument of the finance director: a surplus on the fund was the company's asset and so was available to bail the directors out of the recessionary embarrassment.

Now, with the Maxwell affair fresh in people's minds, it is much harder to get away with such arguments. Ron Paterson, the Ernst & Young technical partner and co-author of UK GAAP, puts it differently: "It always struck me that the standard may be portraying an economic scenario which may not be true." Certainly, the book's conclusions show the extent to which the accountancy profession is going to have to adapt its views to accord more closely with those of the general public. It argues that "the central assumption that pension fund surpluses 'belong' to the employer company" on which the standard is based should be challenged. "It is not evident", the book argues, "as a matter of either law or economic reality, that employers can regard pension funds surpluses as their own unfettered property: while the precise legal position may differ from scheme to scheme, in practice, the members can generally exert a claim over them, at least to some degree". The other argument could be called the Maxwell factor. In future, anyone wanting to get their hands on a surplus will have



ROBERT BRUCE

not just to convince the trustees, but will also, in the words of Paterson, "have to manage the public relations". And, as the chairman of the Accounting Standards Board, Sir David Tweedie, put it this week, "people are far more aware now of what their rights are".

The authors of UK GAAP are well aware that the ASB is preparing a discussion paper on the rules surrounding pensions, for publication next year. In the book, they say: "We think that the ASB should reassess whether the standard really fits the legal and economic relationships which it is intended to portray." UK GAAP: *Generally accepted accounting practice in the UK*, by Mike Davies, Ron Paterson and Allister Wilson. Published by Macmillan at £49.95.

End of the open season

THE sunshine has vanished from the English ICA. After all the promises of openness, in its policy of allowing the public and press to attend at least part of its monthly council sessions, the council meeting this week took the trend to its ultimate conclusion. In the event, there was no open session.

We can only presume that with the collapse of the Bishop plans to integrate the profession, council was discussing

whether any part of the salary of its chief executive who was, after all, the main advocate of the proposal, could be deemed performance-related.

A little knowledge

IT IS no wonder that the much-touted rescue culture is slow to get off the ground. Levy Gee, the enterprising accountancy firm, has produced a survey of corporate and individual voluntary arrange-

ments, the means by which companies can be saved from insolvency. But it shows that while 75 per cent of solicitors know all about CVAs, only 36 per cent of accountants do.

And it gets worse when it comes to IVAs. Ninety-one per cent of bankers and 79 per cent of solicitors have experience of dealing with them. Accountants trail badly, with 43 per cent. It looks very much as though it is the accountants who need rescuing.

Thistle in the side

RON Paterson made an error of timing last week when aiming criticism at Sir David Tweedie, the chairman of the accounting standards board. He should have known what Saturday would bring. In the titanic clash, (attendance 4,521), between Partick Thistle, (Paterson's pride and joy), and Falkirk, (Tweedie's favoured team), Falkirk won 2-1. "At Partick", said Tweedie with

glee. Not that he was there. "I was watching rugby in Glasgow", he said. "I got soaked".

Preach & Practise

IT'S a good thing Sir Leon Brittan decided to stay on in Brussels. The English ICA was this week screening a video in the last-ditch attempt to convince its members to vote for integrating the profession. In the video, Sir Leon exhorts the profession to speak with one voice in Europe. Just like they do in Brussels.

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FOCUS

FACTORING

The recovery is boosting requests for services from small businesses. A special report by David Young on a booming sector

The feel-good factor emerges

Whether or not Britain is emerging from the recession remains a matter of debate. However, what is not in doubt is that the UK factoring industry is poised to play an increasingly important role.

The banks have been suffering in recent months from accusations that they do not have the interests of the small businessman entirely at heart, while the factoring sector has won many friends.

Factoring is an industry that still suffers from an image problem, but there has been recent support from the Governor of the Bank of England. Factoring, the Governor said in a report on the links between banks and their customers, was a method of financing that companies should 'seriously consider as an alternative to the traditional overdraft'.

The big advantage of factoring, the contracting out of financial processes, is that once a company sends out an invoice the factoring company pays out, often on the same day, and then collects the amount owing from the customer, deducting a small percentage fee for the service.

Howard Davies, director-general of the CBI, has given his support, making it clear that factoring is a method small businesses should consider to help enhance their performance.

The Association of British Factors and Discounters (ABFD), which represents the largest companies in the industry, says that total sales factored by its members in 1993 were up by more than 23 per cent to £19.68 billion compared with 1992. This followed a rise of 12.7 per cent in 1992 and 2.5 per cent in 1991.

There is scope for growth. At any one time the industry has about £1.5 billion committed compared with an average of £44 billion that the banks extend in overdrafts.

UK business is hungry for cash to feed demand

Factoring's share of the overall market is growing. Ben Allen, chairman of the ABFD, says: "It appears the banks are finding it more difficult to lend on traditional overdraft terms, particularly to small businesses. Our year is now. As you come out of recession, when balance sheets are maybe a little bit weaker, when the banks have burnt their fingers because they have lost money, that is when factoring does well."

Factoring helps small companies which may have outgrown the bank overdraft

Mr Allen says factoring is there to help small companies which may have outgrown the bank overdraft, but are unable to take advantage of other types of finance, and is a flexible alternative. Factoring facilities automatically grow as sales grow, unlike an overdraft facility which is usually a fixed amount that can only be increased after lengthy negotiations with the bank. Both the Bank of England and the Treasury believe that many companies have become too reliant on overdrafts when other sources are available. Factoring is also attractive for exporters. About 85 per cent of UK exports are still financed by the traditional bank overdraft, despite the advantages of using factoring companies, but factoring is

gradually eating into this market.

The factoring industry argues that overdrafts are rarely used effectively to finance overseas trade. Banks seek security for loans, frequently using a company's assets, including money owed to it, to support an overdraft. With the loan secured by a floating charge, the banks will usually lend up to 60 per cent of the value of money owed by debtors in Britain, but will not lend against the value of debts abroad. As a result, a company may be unable to secure credit from a bank after making an export sale to a multinational, but be advanced 60 per cent of the value of a sale to a small British business.

Competitors of factors point out that some exporters are reluctant to take advantage of factoring companies because of their old image as "lenders of last resort". Suppliers are sometimes concerned that overseas buyers might consider the exporter to be in financial difficulties if export debts are factored, but that impression can be corrected if a company makes clear that factoring is a normal part of its operations.

Factoring is often described as expensive by exporters, but there are compensatory savings. There is less need to send out invoice reminders to customers and for internal credit control and book-keeping. There are also no legal costs incurred in collecting bad debts. Mr Allen, who is managing director of Kellogg, owned by the Bank of Scotland, says that his company's finance cost of simple factoring is set at a rate less than banks charge on overdrafts.

Another reason that demand for factoring of overseas business is increasing is that more continental companies have been hit by recession. They are learning to pay their debts later.



David Kilburn, marketing manager at Lombard NatWest, says: "Factflow ensures that our clients can access their sales ledgers 24 hours a day."

Working in the fast lane with IT

On-line systems such as Factflow speed up payments and reduce administration time

The investment of factoring in information technology has ensured a speed of service welcomed by many companies.

Probably the largest investor has been Lombard NatWest Commercial Services, which has to deal with the sales ledgers of over 1,500 companies with turnovers in excess of £20 million. IT means that each month Lombard NatWest can send out over 40,000 statements, maintain and update the 150,000 UK and overseas business records on which it can provide bad debt protection and credit advice, handle over 100,000 invoices, and receive payments in excess of £74 million, which it then allocates to its client companies.

The company first introduced an on-line link for its clients in 1987 to speed up payments, and more than 500 companies now benefit from using a PC-based link — a service called

Factflow — with Lombard's main-frame computer. Clients can use it to ask for finance, pass on details of new invoices raised and customer payments received, and interrogate the accounting statement produced by Lombard NatWest.

All this can be done daily from a PC in their offices. This significantly reduces administration time and speeds up payments. Factflow handles 31,500 calls each month and half of all invoices now pass through the system. David Kilburn, marketing manager, says: "Many companies are now seeing an increase in sales and need an additional source of finance to fund orders. Lombard's factoring and invoice-discounting packages offer flexi-

ble finance, while Factflow ensures that our clients can access their sales ledgers 24 hours a day."

The smaller companies in the factoring business are also taking advantage of new technology to tailor their factoring packages for their client companies. Laptop computers mean that a factoring package can be tailored on-site and then passed into the company's head office equipment.

The mainstream factors which service the larger companies often have systems with trigger points on their credit references which are set at a level too high for many new businesses.

Companies such as RDM Factors and Fairfax Gerrard, based in the Midlands, work together to meet the

specific needs of the small business.

One company which has used its specialist service is Rushden Auto Electrical in Northamptonshire, which was bought out by Mike Darby, an accountant, in 1992. He had had experience of the factoring industry, but felt that some of the packages offered by the larger companies were not suitable for his new business.

He says: "RDM has provided a superb service to this company. Unlike other large factors RDM looks at the individual needs of each business."

He has set up his own computer system which could now run his invoicing, but is more than content with the RDM service. "I am very much against borrowing money on the strength of my balance sheet," he says, "particularly with today's unstable economy. Far better to raise money from actual sales, so that every invoice makes further sales possible."

Environmentally aware small firms expand as factoring provides funds

Out of the red into a greener world

The factoring industry has developed to a level at which it is playing a full role in business development. One of the first companies in the sector, Alex Lawrie, is now a major sponsor of work being done by the British Chambers of Commerce.

Alex Lawrie has recently sponsored an investigation into the environmental concerns of smaller companies which has found that many of them are heavily investing finances and people to achieve a greener business environment.

The study found that while the motivation for change is new legislation, one in five small businesses feel they have a social responsibility to the environment. Almost three-quarters of the companies surveyed consider themselves well or adequately informed about environmental issues.

Alex Lawrie's research found that seven out of 10 companies are making changes to their management systems in response to environmental concerns. One in three are appointing personnel with a specific responsibility for environmental issues. One in five are changing waste-disposal practices, and also responding to pressure from customers for improved environmental performance.

However, the survey has also found that very few companies have been able to attract any financial assistance

for environmental improvements. One company particularly concerned about the issue is Jet-Vac Services of Port Talbot, in the Alex Lawrie portfolio. Jet-Vac specialises in the cleaning and removing of waste products, and has seen its business increase dramatically, with factoring its unpaid invoices providing funding to expand the business.

The company, founded by David Tobin and Nigel Drane in 1989 with the help of £3.5 million, has a turnover of over £25 million, and approached Alex Lawrie last year when its bank was unable to increase its overdraft.

David Tobin said: "It saved us time negotiating with other banks and generated funds to leap-frog us into expansion. Factoring is just like running a bath — you control the amount of cash required."

Alex Lawrie immediately advanced Jet-Vac 80 per cent of its invoices, with the remainder available when the customer pays. This enabled the company to plan for its busy period, which runs from April to September, and the company now has 75 staff with a fleet of mobile units operating throughout the country.

The environment survey, which involved 400 small businesses each employing under 50 people, also found that increased government regulation is not usually welcome, but three-quarters were happy about the pace of environmental legislation affecting their business.

Of the remainder, 24 per cent found it too slow and only 8 per cent objected that the pace of environmental legislation was too fast.

Malcolm Smith, managing director of Alex Lawrie, said:

"It is encouraging that the majority of small companies have developed a clear understanding of environmental demands, and feel not only obliged to fulfil them, but are also willing to do so."

Factoring is just like running a bath

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The Association of Invoice Factors Limited

The Association of Invoice Factors was founded in 1978. Its members have offices in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

1993 was another record year both for new clients at 764 and sales of £351 million.

Further Information and a list of members is available from The Secretary, Finlay House, 10-14 West Nile Street, GLASGOW, G1 2PP, or Telephone: 041 248 4901

"I wouldn't start factoring if you paid me"

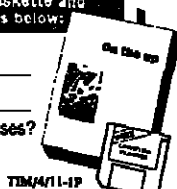
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☐ YES ☐ NO (Please tick)



When cash flow is tight, regular checks on customers' creditworthiness can mean the difference between the success and failure of a business

Good housekeeping can pay in a crisis

THE UNEASY balancing act between getting paid and paying one's own bills is probably the most stressful aspect of running a business, according to David Coates, assistant managing director of CCN Business Information Systems, one of the country's main providers of financial information on companies.

"Get it wrong and there may no longer be a business to manage," he says.

CCN has up to ten years of financial details on 1.5 million limited companies, and information on 1.7 million small businesses and more than five million directorships. Most of the major

players in the factoring industry turn to CCN for financial information and the company processes more than 10 million inquiries each year.

Mr Coates says that companies should never forget that credit management and factoring should be used in parallel.

He says: "You can't have one without the other. Many businesses turn to factoring when cash flow problems become insurmountable. In many cases, although a

last resort, it may be the most suitable option in the short-term. The factoring company will examine the sales ledger to ascertain the quality of receivables before offering terms. If purchasing without recourse, the factor is taking responsibility for credit risk up to an agreed amount and may well limit the prepaid facility immediately available, with the balance payable when collected.

"If the sales ledger looks risky to the factor — if it's more than 90

days old, for example, if one debtor accounts for a very high proportion of the exposure or if there is contractual debt — the prepaid facility will be reduced and may still not be sufficient to restore short-term cash flow. The factor could even reject the ledger entirely."

Mr Coates also makes the point that most businesses operate standard 30-day payment terms but ignore basic credit management practice by waiting for debts to be

several weeks old before taking proceedings to recover them. A recent survey by Barclays Bank found that less than half of companies with a turnover of under £5 million employ full-time staff to run their sales ledgers and pursue payment. Yet more than half have suffered from at least one bad debt during the last year.

Mr Coates says: "Clearly, the business that ignores the elementary rules of credit control — taking credit references on new

customers, repeating them periodically to ensure changing circumstances have not reduced the customer's credit worthiness, and pursuing payment as soon as the agreed credit term is reached — cannot automatically expect to rely on a factor riding to the rescue.

"Credit referencing and factoring, therefore, should not be seen as always in competition, although there is an argument for the view that a well managed company that takes a responsible approach to

credit management will not have need to resort to a factor.

"Even this is not strictly true as totally unforeseen events can severely damage a well-managed firm's cash flow in the short term. But if it has taken prudent steps to minimise the risks by using a credit reference agency to check the financial stability and credit worthiness of its customers, it should have no difficulty in obtaining the services of a factor at a favourable rate."

Mr Coates says factoring companies are not in the business of rescuing poorly managed companies that neglect basic business principles.

Keeping the cash flowing

As overdrafts become harder to obtain, more than 10,000 British businesses have turned to factoring

Probably the most annoying words a small business can hear are "the cheque is in the post". Payment of a long-outstanding debt may well be on its way, but usually it means a further delay, which can often send a small business into receivership.

Some companies turn for help to factoring, a service that can improve vital cash flow. More than 10,000 British businesses now use factoring firms, many of them owned by subsidiary companies of the banks.

Paul Hancock, sales and marketing director of International Factors — owned by Lloyds Bank — says: "Many basically healthy companies find themselves in a vicious circle. They have worked hard to increase demand for their products and services or have developed new markets. But without cash to buy raw materials, increase manufacturing capability or employ more staff, they cannot fulfil new contracts."

An overdraft was frequently the answer, but since overdraft facilities have become harder to obtain, small firms have had to look for more flexible options.

Mr Hancock says: "Banks traditionally provide incorporated businesses with an overdraft roughly equivalent to half the value of good outstanding debts. The overdraft will normally be secured, often by a debenture, with the limit being reviewed in the light of continuing progress of the business as reflected in audit-

ed accounts. Factors normally provide a working capital facility of up to 95 per cent of outstanding good trade debts. By linking funds with an agreed percentage of debts, the money available rises at the same pace as sales."

Some businesses used to be put off by the belief that factoring was more expensive than an overdraft. Today that is seldom so. The discount charge made by factors is often calculated on the same daily basis as overdraft rates. The distinction between the two is that the cash the factor provides is a prepayment of debts and is self-liquidating. Technically, an overdraft is repayable on demand.

Charges for bad-debt protection and credit-management services cost between 0.75 per cent and 2.5 per cent of a company's turnover. Mr Hancock says: "These costs are extremely reasonable when you consider the savings made from not having to employ accounts staff and that outstanding debts are collected just as sensitively but far more quickly than would normally be achieved."

One business that turned to International Factors when it hit cash flow problems was New Forest Patisserie, which husband and wife David and Lorraine Morrish set up in 1990 with £20,000 and an £8,000 overdraft facility. The business now employs 12 in a new factory at Fordingbridge in Hampshire and supplies companies such as Hilton Hotels and P&O Ferries.

Mr Morrish says: "The



Gino Franco, an ice-cream maker: factoring gives my business the necessary flexibility

company has taken off in a way we never dared hope. After 18 months of trading, we had a turnover of £130,000. At the end of 1992 it was £230,000 and we expect it to rise to £400,000 this year."

However, during that period the company also hit cash-flow problems and while its products were first-class, its administration left something to be desired. Mr Morrish says: "From the beginning, orders were coming in very fast. It was clear that our initial capital base would not be sufficient to cope with the demand."

The couple contacted the Poole office of International Factors. Mr Morrish adds: "The great thing about factoring is that finance is geared to growth. The more sales we

make, the more finance is available. Our agreement with International Factors means we can access up to 75 per cent of the value of credit-approved invoices immediately."

"When we first started doing business with International Factors, we were provided with an instant cash injection of more than £15,000, which had been tied up in outstanding debts. I would never have been able to obtain this extra amount through my bank and, unlike an overdraft, this type of finance is self-liquidating, which eliminates the need for a debenture."

Another company in the food business that has turned to factoring, this time with Lombard NatWest, is Franco's, an ice-cream maker based in Derby. Gino Franco,

the managing director, says: "Flexibility is the key to success in the ice-cream business. If it's sunny, we need to generate cash — and fast. Not only does our production line need to be flexible, so does the method of finance to fund the sales."

Small mercies

Factoring is a godsend to many recession-hit small businesses



Marilyn Adams and Steve Boyden with Midas staff

Britain's small business sector is one area where the role of the members of the Association of British Factors and Discounters (ABFD) is of vital importance. Many small businesses in the country will happily admit that without factoring they would not exist.

The ABFD has found that the recovery of the smaller business sector remained steady in the second quarter of this year, as fears of the effects of April's tax increases died down. Sales reported by 10,000 small businesses which use factoring rose by 18.9 per cent to £5.7 billion in the second three months of this year, compared with £4.8 billion in 1993.

Ben Allen, managing director of Kellock and chairman of the ABFD, says: "The recovery among smaller firms seems to be holding up well. Unfortunately, however, it appears that the recession in continental Europe is continuing to dampen expansion of British business."

The ABFD says small businesses should be encouraged by recent figures from the British Chambers of Commerce which show that the number of company failures has fallen by 10 per cent.

"The continuing drop in insolvencies and the greater responsibility that businessmen are taking for their own affairs is heartening," Mr

Allen says, "but uncertainty about the costs of borrowing could make many small firms nervous. Small firms are benefiting from bills being paid more promptly without having to resort to statutory measures."

"Following the recession, small businesses seem reluctant to take advantage of the improving economic climate, and instead are increasingly using asset-based finance — particularly as traditional forms of security for debt such as property are not keeping pace with order books."

Paul Hancock, sales and marketing director of International Factors, a Lloyds Bank subsidiary, says: "We appreciate how difficult it can be for small businesses to obtain funding. If a small company has prospects we are prepared to listen, and have a team of enthusiastic and experienced people who will be as flexible as possible."

One company that owes its launch to factoring is Midas Retail Security, a company set up in 1992 by Steve Boyden and Marilyn Adams. Both come from a background in

retailing, and knew that shoplifting, with goods worth an estimated £2 billion a year being stolen, was a growing concern.

They set up Midas Retail Security to provide security staff specially trained to meet the needs of the High Street chains. Two leading retail groups expressed a strong interest as soon as the concept was explained. However, it soon became clear that the start-up costs would be more than three times the amount that the partners could raise privately.

Their bank manager suggested factoring. Because it could provide 80 per cent of the value of invoices as soon as they were issued, an ideal situation for a newly formed company.

Mr Boyden says: "Without factoring we wouldn't be here. It guaranteed that at the end of each month, when the invoices went out, cash would come in immediately to cover our outgoing staff salaries. This left us free to use our limited capital to invest in essential items rather than restrict our cash flow."

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES: No. 9



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Striking gold isn't just a matter of luck. Your company will need to have adequate resources, but the old-fashioned bank overdraft may lack the stamina to take you all the way.

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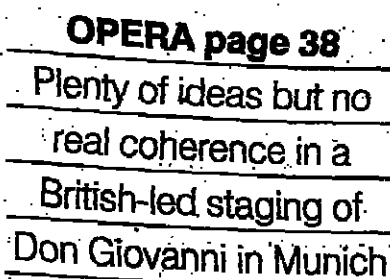
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مكتبة من الأصول



ARTS

Choreographer Martha
Clarke joins Christopher
Hampton on the trail
of Lewis Carroll



Coffin and spluttering

The final scenes, for instance, could not be more flamboyant. We have a mansion on fire, another Creature suddenly whipped up, and an Arctic funeral pyre. But, in-

Love in the Strangest Way. A French thriller, boasts the kind of twisted storyline that Hollywood could pump up into a glamorous, salacious thriller. Richard Gere or Michael Douglas could take Thierry Lhermitte's role of the debt collection agency boss undone by an extra-marital fling. As for Nadia Fares's femme fatale, a bothersome neurotic girl who gets herself hired as the family child



Making Up, a 55-minute student feature, was the German box-office surprise of

Finally, admirers of John Dahl's film noir *The Last Seduction* have a chance to renew acquaintance with his first venture into the field. **KILL ME AGAIN**, the merry tale of a wily sexpot (Joanna Whalley-Kilmer), a seedy Reno investigator (Val Kilmer), a violent boyfriend (Michael Madsen), of course, and a suitcase full of dollars. The film, made in 1989, is a modest exercise, but the story works.

BARRY NORMAN-FILM '94

KENNETH
BRANAGH

MARY SHELLEY'S
FRANKENSTEIN

This caused excitement in the front rows but the rest of us were left nonplussed. On the way out, though, I saw Vivienne Westwood moving smoothly across the concourse on vertigo-inducing platform shoes, while deep in conversation with a fashionable man in a kilt. She floated above the discarded Coke containers as if on angels' wings. Now that truly was *wunderbar*.

ALAN JACKSON

trated "Killing of a Flash Boy" to the sun-dappled images of nature that played behind "The Wild Ones". Created by the Interference production company, these cleverly thought-out and cliché-free sequences teased out the drama of Anderson's lyrics and bolstered the performance.

The show ended with a splendid reading of "Still Life", which found Anderson accompanied only by Oakes on acoustic guitar. Then, as a taped, orchestral version of the song played over the speakers, the credits for the show rolled as if at the end of a film.

Refreshingly, there was no self-serving "encore" to impair the satisfying effect of a fine body of work dispatched with rare imagination and panache.

DAVID SINCLAIR



Tricks without treats

Not the sort of thing I recall anyone saying after fixing it for dear old David Nixon to pop up on a TV variety show and shuffle a few cards or produce a bunny from a top

Luckily, the man who started out as Davino, the Boy Magician, had that base covered also. "In his unique style, David turned this dazzling demonstration of his craft into a meaningful lesson on the value of freedom," said the programme about that career high point.

Here, though, the meaningful lessons seemed to be more about the therapeutic value of simulated sex. No magician worth his salt would be caught without a lovely assistant, but Copperfield appeared to have a bevy of them, each willing to vanish in thin air, be sawn into

been impressive close-up, but given the stadium setting, the distant stage and giant screens it was hard not to feel that you would be better off at home watching a Spielberg on the telly. However, what everyone wanted to see was Copperfield flying. And fly he did — alone, and with an audience member called Sharon.

This caused excitement in the front rows but the rest of us were left nonplussed. On the way out, though, I saw Vivienne Westwood moving smoothly across the concourse on vertigo-inducing platform shoes, while deep in conversation with a fashionable man in a kilt. She floated above the discarded Coke containers as if on angels' wings. Now that truly was *wunderbar*.

ALAN JACKSON

Suede with added polish

Where Butler used to be was Richard Oakes, the 18-year-old guitarist who was still a schoolboy when, a few months ago, he answered a newspaper advertisement placed by the first group he had ever seen play live.

In sharp contrast to his extrovert predecessor, Oakes was a shuffling presence who

But he played his part (as written) — including a stretch on piano during "The 2 Of Us" — with considerable flair, and there was a resilient air about him that will come in handy in

Meanwhile, Anderson seemed to over-compensate for the absence of Butler. Jumping on the monitors, swinging the

With the darkened stage initially wreathed in a dense cloud of dry ice and engulfed in glistening washes of turquoise and blue, you almost expected Pink Floyd to emerge as the taped intro of "Introducing the Band" reached a crescendo.

WORLD PREMIERE SEASON
AT CINEMAS
ACROSS THE COUNTRY
FROM TOMORROW

LONDON

LONDON FILM FESTIVAL Kenneth Branagh's much-promoted *Frankenstein* opens the 36th festival tonight and Luc Besson's English-language thriller *Leon* closes it on the 30th. In between, there is something of a head-butt as it is on other but not a great deal in the way of risk-taking, some interest for those favouring the "international and three continents" sections. One to watch for is *Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas*. May not sound like it but it is another ground-breaking, lavish Disney production - and it has even got the director's attention. Box Office: 071-333 3333.

MUSIC AT THE SOUTH BANK Alexander Lazarev returns tonight to conduct the BBC SO for a Russian programme of Tchaikovsky's *Rachmaninov and Scriabin*. Over in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Stephen Langford's *Elgar's Violin Concerto* will be played by the London Philharmonic. Tomorrow, the BBC SO will play a programme of Liszt's *Sonata for solo*. Tickets: 071-333 3333.

THE EDITING PROCESS

Stephen Daldry directs Meredith Galloway's comedy about the fight for survival in an editing room. Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1. 071-730 1745. Mon-Sat: 7.30pm, mats Sat 10am Nov 5. 3.30pm. Urr Dec 3.

MIRACULOUS

Gordon's spectacular holiday-themed musical has his male addresser again, played by David Tennant and directed by David Tennant. Lyric, King St, Hammerhead, W6. 071-741 2311. Previews begin tonight, 7.30pm. Opens Nov 9, 7pm.

THE HOLLYWOODERS

Comedy about the life of a Hollywood star. Brian Friel directs his own play. Catherine Byrne, Mark Lambert and T. P. McKenna play the roles of the star, his manager and his wife. Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1. 071-730 1745. Mon-Sat: 7.30pm, mats Sat 10am Nov 5. 3.30pm. Urr Dec 3.

MOSCOW STATIONS

Comedian's one-man performance as an alcoholic in the Moscow Underground. You probably won't see him, more laughing at his year. Garmak, Charing Cross Road, WC2. 071-494 5086. Mon-Sat: 8pm.

THE BROWNING VERSION

19th-century, spectacular version of *Ramona's* play, with Albert Finney. Greta Scacchi and Matthew Modine. Wyndham, Tottenham Court Road, W1. 071-370 3366. Haymarket: 071-889 1527. Warner: 071-437 4343.

FEAR OF A BLACK HAT

Julianne Phillips' musical (18) runs out of jokes and steam. Ruddy, Gower St, WC1. 071-437 0777.

MAJOR LEAGUE II

Unimpaired, full-on sequel to the baseball comedy. With Tom Berenger and Charles Sheen, director, David S. Ward. MGM, Tottenham Court Road, W1. 071-370 3366. Haymarket: 071-889 1527. Warner: 071-437 4343.

RAPA NUI

19th-century, spectacular version of *Ramona's* play, with Albert Finney. Greta Scacchi and Matthew Modine. Wyndham, Tottenham Court Road, W1. 071-370 3366. Haymarket: 071-889 1527. Warner: 071-437 4343.

CIRCUSES

BILLY SMARTS, Richmond, Open. Unit Nov 20. Or only London. Venue: Theatre site, starting central. Ticket: 071-333 3333. CCA Accepted.

CLASSICAL CONCERTS

ROYAL ALBERT HALL, 8.00. Around the World. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS GALA CONCERT OF MUSIC FROM VIOLINI TO VIOLIN. WEBSTER-SMITH GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. FRIDAY 18 NOVEMBER 8PM. TICKETS: 071-225 0000.

CARARET

THE GREEN ROOM, at the Cafe Royal. The Royal National Theatre's production of J.B. Priestley's *A Night at the Theatre*. 7.30pm. Ticket: 071-333 3333.

EVENTS

SANDERS WELLS, 071 713 0000. DANCE UNIVERSALIA '94. 4.5 Nov 7.30pm. Slideshow. Dance. Company: "Look, listen and move!" 071-333 3333.

OPERA & BALLET

COLLIERIE, 071 832 8300. ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA. 7.30pm. Ticket: 071-333 3333.

THEATRES

ADOLPH, "How a fellow which descends to the same and set alongside. Andrew Lloyd Webber's past. 071-333 3333." Ticket: 071-333 3333.

SUNSET BOULEVARD

"THE HOTTEST ADDRESS IN TOWN" 071-333 3333. Ticket: 071-333 3333.

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PERSONAL CALLERS AT THE ADOLPH BOX OFFICE. Recorded information 071 370 8554. Mon-Sat 7.45 Mon-Sat 3.00.

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

FESTIVAL HALL/QUEEN

SOUTH BANK, SE1. 071-333 3333. 7.30pm. Ticket: 071-333 3333.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

A royal gala opens the 10th performance of Anthony Brown's new production for the Royal Ballet. American critics tended to the the (now) Edward Durell Harris's new production - and it has even got the director's attention. Box Office: 071-333 3333.

ELSEWHERE

GLASGOW Hakan Hinderberger plays *Neume Jani* and the *Guttenberg* Symphony Orchestra for the UK premiere of *Neume Jani*. New York for Orchestra and Trumpet. Tonight's programme opens with *Neume Jani* and *Cosmos with Stoklas*.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London. House full, returns only. Seats at all prices.

ON APPROVAL

Peter Hall gives us the *Lonsdale* play as it was and is. A script, directed, played by the original cast. With Martin Jarvis, Anne Cavanagh, Louise Lombard, Simon Ward. Playhouse, Northumberland Ave, WC2. 071-494 5086. Mon-Sat: 7.30pm, mats Thurs 3pm and Sat 5pm.

A PASSIONATE WOMAN

Stephanie Cole as a woman who is seduced by a man who is a woman. *Almeida Street*, NW1. 071-333 3333. Ticket: 071-333 3333.

RACING DEMON

David Hare's comedy about the life of a racing driver. *Charing Cross Road*, WC2. 071-494 5086. Mon-Sat: 8pm.

CINEMA GUIDE

Gaelle Brown's assessment of films in London (and where indicated with the symbol ●) on release across the country.

THE LION KING

● *THE LION KING* (U). African lion cub almost loses his father's throne. *MGM*, Tottenham Court Road, W1. 071-370 3366. Haymarket: 071-889 1527. Warner: 071-437 4343.

FOREST GUMP

● *FOREST GUMP* (12). Encouraging the blind man to walk through the world. *MGM*, Tottenham Court Road, W1. 071-370 3366. Haymarket: 071-889 1527. Warner: 071-437 4343.

THE NUTCRACKER

● *THE NUTCRACKER* (PG). The story of a young girl who dreams of becoming a ballerina. *MGM*, Tottenham Court Road, W1. 071-370 3366. Haymarket: 071-889 1527. Warner: 071-437 4343.

MUSIC: A British-led Mozart production in Munich; and an English night in Birmingham

Don Giovanni Bavarian State Opera

SOMETIMES even the most promising ingredients don't quite blend into a satisfying whole, as was the surprising case with the Bavarian State Opera's new *Don Giovanni* on Monday. It was conducted by Sir Colin Davis, interestingly cast, staged by the award-winning team of Nicholas Hytner and Bob Crowley (making German debuts), and lit by Jean Kalman.

Davis, a favourite in the Bavarian capital, was at his most benign and expansive in the pit, drawing a lush, romantic sound from the fine orchestra and favouring slow, expressive tempos that — to ears accustomed to so much life and daring Mozart nowadays — seemed unsettlingly old-fashioned. This, perhaps, was how Klemperer sounded when Sir Colin started out with his once-learn Mozart 35 years ago. It was all very beautiful, but lacked that essential ingredient in *Giovanni*: danger.

Crowley's decor was based on flat surfaces (not all that flat as finished by the Munich set-builders) and plain colours that were not brought to life by Kalman's equally flat and surprisingly dim lighting. It does help to see the singers' faces, and too often you couldn't. The costumes were non-specifically 18th-century.

Of course there were ideas aplenty in Hytner's direction, with some echoes of Deborah Warner's version at Glyndebourne: a purposeful underplaying of the comic element, a simple last supper for Giovanni (looking like Noel Coward's "something on a tray") that degenerated into a banquet, an Elvira, gagging at Leporello's mention of "young ladies".

There was little of the near-mythical superman about William Shimell's brooding Giovanni. He was greatly thrown by the death of the Commendatore (presented by Marti Salminen as superhuman from the very outset) in a fair fight, took little relish in his escapades, and was visibly frightened in the graveyard and Supper Scenes. Here was an everyday womaniser whose fate was definitely a case of overkill. It is a point perhaps worth making, but is it Mozart's?

There were eight equestrian statues in the graveyard, and one live, scene-stealing horse to summon Giovanni to hell: it takes a lot to upstage Salminen, but this placid white mare managed it. The libretto's first-act party was a very odd affair, with the peasants made to wear golden dance caps, discouraged from dancing and given

nothing more reckless to eat than ice-cream. I wouldn't have stayed long. Anna, Elvira and Zerlina were near-identical frocks, but the point of this remained elusive.

Coherence was not aided by an oddly unbalanced cast. Lucio Gallo's sardonic Leporello outshone his employer in pungency of delivery and force of personality. You felt he was longing to get a laugh or two. Peter Seiffert's totally impressive Otavio — not a flicker of reaction when Anna accused his friend of murder — perhaps encouraged Sheri Green-awald to overplay that lady's hysterical side, but at least she lived every (not very steady) note of the role.

René Pape's powerfully sung, thuggish Masetto was paired with Alison Hagley's rather abstract Zerlina: both "Batti, batti" and "Vedrai carino" were staged as foreplay, with much lascivious belt-work in the former. Angela-Maria Blasi was the spirited Elvira, deprived of "Mi tradi" since the Prague version was used. Even without this and "Dalla sua pace", Monday seemed a long and bafflingly unfocused evening.

RODNEY MILNES

Dullness paves this road to hell

Don Giovanni Bavarian State Opera

SOMETIMES even the most promising ingredients don't quite blend into a satisfying whole, as was the surprising case with the Bavarian State Opera's new *Don Giovanni* on Monday. It was conducted by Sir Colin Davis, interestingly cast, staged by the award-winning team of Nicholas Hytner and Bob Crowley (making German debuts), and lit by Jean Kalman.

Davis, a favourite in the Bavarian capital, was at his most benign and expansive in the pit, drawing a lush, romantic sound from the fine orchestra and favouring slow, expressive tempos that — to ears accustomed to so much life and daring Mozart nowadays — seemed unsettlingly old-fashioned. This, perhaps, was how Klemperer sounded when Sir Colin started out with his once-learn Mozart 35 years ago. It was all very beautiful, but lacked that essential ingredient in *Giovanni*: danger.

Crowley's decor was based on flat surfaces (not all that flat as finished by the Munich set-builders) and plain colours that were not brought to life by Kalman's equally flat and surprisingly dim lighting. It does help to see the singers' faces, and too often you couldn't. The costumes were non-specifically 18th-century.

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RODNEY MILNES



Angela-Maria Blasi as Donna Elvira and William Shimell as Don Giovanni in Nicholas Hytner's staging

Not one of the best

THOUGH not the most heroic or the most showy of its kind, Sir Michael Tippett's Piano Concerto is probably one of the most difficult. Even Peter Donohoe and Mark Elder, fulfilling a long-cherished ambition in introducing the work to Symphony Hall, had problems in sorting out its proliferating textures.

What they and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra might have achieved was indicated by a wonderfully well-integrated performance of the third movement. The most conventional of the three in terms of structure, in spite of its tempo changes, it was carried through on one rhythmic impulse and with the marvellous instrumental detail fitting neatly into place. The first movement had begun uncomfortably, with piano and orchestra not quite together, and what ought to have been an urbane and balanced exchange of poetic ideas sounded too often like a confrontation of apparently incompatible contrapuntal material. The luminously lyrical

events which occurred both here and in the slow movement were associated with the most extravagant of Tippett's textual elaborations.

It was not, in general, an evening on which the CBSO was sounding at its best: with Elgar's Second Symphony as well as the Tippett and Beethoven's *Coriolan* overture it was perhaps too ambitious a programme for that. Although, as its principal guest conductor, Mark Elder has secured some beautifully finished playing from the orchestra in the recent past, on this occasion a lack of definition in rhythm and consequently in ensemble weakened the strings and roughened the wind. Happily, in an inspired interpretation of the Elgar questions of sound were secondary to facts of emotional intensity and, eventually, serenity. Although this programme might have been miscalculated in its length, its ambition was justified in the end.

GERALD LARNER

RODNEY MILNES

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Through the glass darkly

Director Martha Clarke explores the character of Lewis Carroll in her new National Theatre production. Allen Robertson reports

Despite the oddities, even the obsessions, which ran through Lewis Carroll's life he was not a dirty old man. At least that's what director Martha Clarke and writer Christopher Hampton believe. Their collaborative new play, *Alice's Adventures Under Ground*, opening in the National's intimate Cottesloe Theatre on Tuesday, goes in search of the heart of a man who loved — yet never trusted — little girls.

"He was not a dirty old man," Clarke insists. "In fact he wasn't even a dirty young man." She lets out a whoop of laughter before slapping her own wrist. "Now, Martha, be serious. That's an unfair thing to say. I was just being facetious." Still, the truth is that Carroll was only 30 when he became fascinated with Alice Liddell, one of the three daughters of the dean of his Oxford college, Christ Church. On July 4, 1862, he took Alice and her sisters out on the river "all in the golden afternoon". That boat trip led to *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and, later, *Through the Looking Glass*.

Yet Alice is emblematic of a whole series of pre-pubescent girls who played a key role in shaping Carroll's psyche and the way he related to the world. "During his lifetime he wrote nearly 100,000 letters to 108 little girls. He said, and this is a quote, that his life was '75 per cent little girls'. Yet, here was a young man, not some garrulous avuncular figure. For me that makes it all the more touching. It's stranger and more beautiful. It has a kind of purity, almost as if he himself hadn't yet reached puberty — if he ever did."

Now 50, and living on a farm in Connecticut, Clarke was one of America's most celebrated and sought after performers during the years she was appearing with the modern dance troupe Pilobolus. One of the success stories of the 1970s, the group was always in demand and constantly on tour. So much so that it all became too much for Clarke. After seven years of living out of a suitcase she quit and moved to the country.

Clarke's effin face with its saucer-eyes and malleable mouth made her an inspired sad-sack of a clown. She was the kind of artist who could, and often did, bring tears out of the most raucous laughter. Her choreography



Given her background, the choreographer Martha Clarke seems an ideal candidate to take a fresh look at the fantastical world of Lewis Carroll

for *The Garden of Earthly Delights*, recently added to the repertoire of Rambert Dance Company, is a bright example of her roller-coaster approach to emotions.

Given her background, she seems an ideal candidate to take a fresh look at Carroll's fantastical world. But something strange transpired along the way and, as she herself admits, the final outcome is not going to be like her dance works at all. Nor what audiences might expect when they first see the title.

"This is not *The Wind in the Willows*, not Walt Disney," she explains. "There are no whiskers, tails, or floppy ears in sight."

"A long time back I asked for the Duchess to have a baby pig and was told, no, that was impossible. They grow so fast we'd need a new one about every ten days. Well, I hit upon the idea of using a ham instead. Oddly enough that was a major clue on how to do this piece. Once I knew I had a ham I couldn't then have flamingos and didn't need card men bending over."

"So, by now, we're down to nearly no Alice paraphernalia, just Victor-

ana. Our set is by Robert Israel. It's a drawing room with a beach in it. There's some Victorian furniture and also some big boulders. There's sand washing up on a wooden floor. We have rain and snow — you can see the sky — and of course the looking glass where Alice first appears.

**6 In his lifetime
Lewis Carroll
wrote nearly
100,000 letters to
108 little girls**

"It's all based on reality," she adds, although it didn't start out that way nearly three years ago when Clarke and Hampton held their first Alice workshop. "There were days when we broke millions of plates, threw food around the room and laughed a lot, but now we're down to a lot of razzle-dazzle. We've taken it back to

the words and their subtext. That's why it's not being recommended for small children: not because of the sex angle, but because they might become bored."

"We've used the words — and every single one of them is his — to tell the emotional arc of Lewis Carroll's love of this child, Christopher and I decided that this incredibly emotional relationship between a young man and this little girl was the foundation, the way we wanted to explore the material in the books."

"We're dealing with repression in Victorian society, and because his strong fondness for young girls is kind of a dirty area, our production is less physical than you might expect. Let's face it, if you're dealing with a repressed society you are not going to have a whole lot of rumpy-tum going on." This approach surfaced during a second round of workshops which were held on Clarke's farm. It was during this period that they abandoned the idea of casting ballerina Alessandra Ferri as Alice, and also jettisoned the notion of having both a big and a little Alice.

One of the reasons for that is Sasha Hanau, the actress who plays Alice.

"She's nine now and she's been with us since she was just seven. Along the way she's made two movies [*House of the Spirits* and *Frankenstein*] so she's already worked with Streep, Irons, Branagh and De Niro. You know, we really fell in love with her and, I think, ultimately, in a certain way, we decided that we wanted to do this for the child."

"Also, I must admit I love the man. I love the character. I find him as complex as can be and full of sorrow. He led this extraordinary life in his mind as a mathematician and writer of amazing language, but he was not a man of the body. Even so, he loved physical beauty and, for him, little girls were beauty incarnate."

"Deep down in my heart of hearts this is what I always imagined the production would be like. But you have to work alongside your company to discover together that this is the way to go. I sometimes feel like a sheepdog, herding the piece along and keeping it from certain danger areas. I just have to keep us open to the surprises we're finding."

● *Alice's Adventures Under Ground* is previewing now and opens at the Cottesloe (01-928 2252) on Tuesday

DANCE: An Umbrella festival highlight

All you wanted to know about sex

If Angelin Preljocaj had become joint director of London Contemporary Dance Theatre last year — one of the plans the company had before closing itself down — Britain would have seen a lot more of his exhilarating work. Instead, we will have to content ourselves with occasional visits by his own excellent company.

Preljocaj was born in France (of Albanian parents) but, unlike many of his French colleagues, he has a depth and structure to his dance-making that places him well above the Euro-crash mainstream. His artistic roots are solid: the rigours of classical ballet, the abstraction of Merce Cunningham, even the German expressionism of the Mary Wigman school. He knows what he wants his work to say and he has the movement vocabulary to say it.

Most of what he wanted to say in his *Dance Umbrella* programme was about sex, from the frustrated homosexual soul-bonding of *Un Traité d'union*, to the erotic fantasies of a young woman in *Le Spectre de la rose*, to the raw mating rituals of *Les Noces*. It was billed as "Homage aux Ballets Russes" (which was at least two-thirds correct), although in the days of Diaghilev sex on stage was a far more implicit affair.

The only way a well-bred young woman could enjoy an erotic dream in 1911 was to have the object of her lust encoded as the spirit of a rose. Preljocaj, with no social nice-

ties to observe in the 1990s, throws codes out of the window in his carnal rewriting of *Spectre*. He divides the stage into two competing scenarios. On the left, inside a box-room, two couples engage in games of seduction: the women in evening gowns are coy, the men, dressed as leopards, are cocksure.

On the right we get to the heart of the matter. A woman, deshabille in a slip, is ravaged — willingly — by a phantom Nijinsky-esque lover in delicious slow motion, as if to prolong their mutual pleasure. With the boldly illustrative choreography picking up on the sexual thrust of Weber's music, the two halves of the stage vie for our attention as the distinction between dream and reality is cleverly blurred.

In *Les Noces* the folkloric wedding ceremony is a metaphorical rape in which unwilling brides are dragged away from the innocence of their childhood dolls to confront the mating ritual. Like Stravinsky's throbbing 1923 score, Preljocaj's choreography for five couples is sharply driven.

The opening work, *Un Traité d'union* ("A Linking"), utilises the enormous upper body strength of its two male dancers, and features a heart-stopping moment when one of them jumps straight up — catlike — from a press-up position on the floor into the other's arms. Even seeing it isn't believing it.

DEBRA CRAINE



Franck Chartier and Philippe Combes put their massive upper-body strength to good use in *Un Traité d'union*

THEATRE: Waiting for Godot reworked in a Nigerian setting at the Bush; cartoon domestic violence in Ipswich

Beckett rides again in Africa

Two Horsemen
Bush

Who are the characters in *Biyi Bandele-Thomas's* hour-long two-hander? They claim once or twice to be horsemen, either the kind that get buried alive with a dead emperor, or the apocalyptic sort that ride through the clouds with scythes and suchlike in their long, bony fingers. Both scenarios seem a little improbable, however, since they dress like hobos and live in a ratty, rundown hut. When they talk of being street-cleaners, as they also do, they are rather easier to believe.

But one thing is certain. They are African counterparts of Beckett's clownish tramps, Estragon and Vladimir. It is as if the Nigerian-born Bandele-Thomas was answering an exam question couched roughly like this: "Transpose *Waiting for Godot* to a shanty-town near Lagos. Ensure the dialogue contains joking mentions of God, Christ, time, death, and masturbation. Combine this with a general impression of ontological uncertainty and unease. Extra points will be given for oblique references to Beckett's *Endgame* and other plays of the so-called absurdist school."

If that is his mandate, the dramatist has scored ten out of ten. Banza and Lagbaja, as they are called in the programme but (Beckett-style) never on the stage, spin fantasies, bicker, repeat themselves, exchange identities, contradict themselves, and metaphysically muse. They talk of the monotony of existence and of their loneliness. They assure us that even when the sun shines it is really night "in all its vast, meaninglessness". Meanwhile, the rain pours down offstage in the approved diluvian fashion.

Lugubrious stuff, yes? Yet somehow the effect is not as portentous and pretentious as it should be. The actors, Leo Wringier and Colin McFarlane, are more mischievous than despairing, and Roxana Silbert's production seems keener on sending up the darker side of Beckett than recycling it. Even a murder

attempt turns out to be a prank. And when these two tell tales or swap anecdotes, they can be more amusing than their laboriously droll prototypes in *Godot*.

Whether that is enough to justify so derivative a piece, I am not sure. But I do know that it comes to first-hand life when Wringier's feisty Banza describes holding a conversation with God (a depressed Chinese smelling of whisky) on a bus, or McFarlane's mournful Lagbaja recalls a marriage that came to a precipitate end after he called out his own name in the heat of passion. When defiant humour is wanted, Bandele-Thomas is his own man.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Waiting for Godot in Lagos: Leo Wringier, mischievous rather than despairing in *Biyi Bandele-Thomas's* play

RADIO: News bulletins are coming dangerously close to echoing what the papers say

Have you heard this one before?

countless BBC bulletins which seemed to have been read out the day before. And the day before that.

I think it is time that Radio 4 recalled Fraser for the express purpose of having him toss all these repetitive bulletins in the air so that they descend on the newsreader's desk in a different order. Thus they would produce an item that might say: "There are allegations this morning that the editor of *The Guardian* spent the night in a Paris hotel with the chairman of Harrods and a government minister. The bill was paid by a woman of European aspect whom a hotel cashier described as the Princess of Wales."

If this was to be read out I suspect that confused listeners

would merely say: surely we heard that yesterday? Their puzzlement is explained by the fact that radio news in the past week has turned into a serialised version of *What The Papers Say*.

And that in turn is because broadcasting is exposed at times like this as seriously lacking what Fraser calls "proper newsmen". Not that the BBC lacks proper journalists; far from it. But the BBC ethos somehow does not permit, at least not in news bulletins, the kind of digging which produces real news.

The BBC does not have a news division as such, it has a "news and current affairs" division. Under the back half of that umbrella some worthy investigation takes place, most

notably on radio in John Waite's *Face the Facts* programme, which exposes fraudsters and con men.

But these investigations are on the fringes of public life, not at the centre. They only seem to rock boats whose planking is already spongy with rot.

There are those, even within the BBC, who think the Corporation keeps out of public scandal, except at one remove, because it fears for the licence fee. I do not think that. I do think that in the ratings battle with ITN, BBC Television has gone for news as show-business, glitz over substance. And because BBC Television shares reporters with BBC Radio, there is a tendency for the latter's news reporting to become television without pictures. Thus real news is often what appears in newspapers. At which point, given the current maniacal climate, I should perhaps declare an interest.

PETER BARNARD

Unhappy families

Sisters
Wolsey Studio,
Ipswich

Oh brother, this is a nightmare. April and Carol, two Northern mill-working sisters, and their downtrodden mother are constantly terrorised by the sole man of the household. Dad beats and sexually abuses them all. The most important thing to say here is that such horrors are an actuality and have been for years. However, the atrocious truth about Nell Dunn's play is that it makes domestic violence and patriarchal psychosis seem high-on-unbelievable.

This short piece, clobbering you over the head with the monstrosities of the insecure male, is like reality compacted concertina-style. Father (Frank Moorey, forgivably unconvincing) hardly has time to catch his breath between bouts of deranged aggression.

We haven't even been introduced and he's straight in there, accompanied by a dodgy jeweller somehow acquired on the way home, buying his daughters' and wooer wedding rings. Before you can say fic, he's shoving

April's head in her supper and pulling out a shotgun, forcing them all to practise their aim in case men come knocking. He then vanishes up on the roof, an episode ending in a smashing noise which may have been him taking a tumble. He emerges unscathed, wielding an axe handle, off to brain the dog next door. And so barking on. Though played straight, this is perilously close to the stuff of cartoons.

The production has some sensitive detailing. David Thomas's split-level design, though it has trouble suggesting all the locales, conveys cramped poverty and hideousness with a clutter of tacky furniture and mismatching carpets. There seemed to be some confusion about whether this was the 1950s or today, perhaps indicating that things have not changed.

But there is no excuse for cliché. Caroline Smith's actors aren't really to blame, although Robert Beach is miscast in a bunch of bit parts from shrink to judge. Victoria Alcock's Carol, with an underdeveloped boniness and big forehead, is tensely cowering. Jane Whittenshaw's April, protective but with a possible eating disorder, is triumphantly overweight while retaining alertness and spiritual strength. Dunn touches on issues of importance, including women's capacity for retaliatory violence and the British law. But her approach is too heavy-handed to tolerate.

KATE BASSETT

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Is the great wen doomed?

Peter Ackroyd compares two views of London's past, present and future and argues there is life in the city yet

London is now, according to Roy Porter, a "deteriorating megalopolis": what was once "the world's greatest city" is in "precipitate decline". John Russell, on the other hand, believes that in recent years the city "began to change for the better" and has in the process become both more charming and more amenable to individual taste. Londoners have been "set free to be the people they actually were".

Both men speak from a position of some authority. Porter was brought up in a council house in New Cross Gate, went to school in Camberwell, and is now a professor in London's first and best university. John Russell was by his own account educated "on the streets of London" and has at various times lived in the residences of Whistler, Constable, Coventry Patmore and Mrs Gaskell. Both writers, then, can be assumed to possess an acute sense of place:

LONDON
A Social History
By Roy Porter
Hamish Hamilton, £20

LONDON
By John Russell
Harry N. Abrams, £35

It is a city built upon money and trade. Porter recalls that Tacitus described one of the earliest settlements of London, in the second century AD, as "a celebrated centre of commerce". In 730 Bede depicted it as "the mart of many nations". That is why the most famous London song has a money-lender's refrain. "When will you pay me?" It has for centuries been the home of banks, insurance companies, shops, exchanges and markets. According to Porter it owes its very development to the pressures of "private capital" as well as "popular capitalism". It is what the old London alchemist meant in his invocation to "the city of gold" but, in that prayer, it is also known as "the city of fire" and "the city of death".

The conflagration started by Bodicea was only "the first of London's many terrible fires", in Porter's words, and we might chart the trajectory of flame through the Great Fire and the Blitz to the terrorist explosions of recent years. That is why there has also been much death — polluted deaths, deaths in dirt and squalor, deaths in what Porter calls the "infection reservoir" of the city by the Thames.

It achieved its greatness in the 16th century, but then it began to spread without control or organisation until it became the vast "oven" or "wen" of literary nightmare. Of course it has always been in administrative chaos, without any recognisable central authority beyond the jurisdiction of the parish or borough, but in the 19th century it was naively regarded as an example of Darwinian natural evolution. But its growth is far more atavistic and interesting than that of any outmod-

ed scientific model. The topography of London still in part reflects the outline of Saxon lanes and, as Porter puts it, "Today's antipathy to planners may reflect Anglo-Saxon attitudes". There is no need for an exclamation mark here, however, because it is the plainest sense.

One of the virtues of this account is the range of contemporaneous quotation which Porter provides, giving full weight to that period when London was the wonder and the mystery of the world. But he is also very good on those details which mark the city's true and enduring identity. He notes that, at the time of the devastation of "Holy London" during the Reformation, a gunpowder factory was built on the site of a Franciscan runnymede and a baker's shop in place of a Cistercian abbey. Most of the notable modern vices are in fact very old indeed. In the late 16th century hooligans (an Irish neologism may be permitted in the discussion of a city which is half-built by Irishmen) were placed in prison for "outrageously and riotously behaving themselves at football play in Cheapside". Fast food and take-aways were also

popular in the early 19th century — one pastry cook kept the window of her shop open because there were so many people "who took up buns and biscuits as they passed by and threw their pence in, not allowing themselves time to enter".

John Russell's *London* is a less scholarly and more personal account than that of Porter. There are other differences as well — Russell is an art critic and Porter is Professor of Medical History. But, since they are both Londoners, they share more perceptions and attitudes than might ordinarily be expected. Even their language is sometimes the same and, in that identity, we come closer to the very nature of the city itself. Here is Porter: "The City was itself a theatre in its own right." And here is Russell on London: "A great city is theatre". Some might relate this to what Porter describes as "Holy London", a centre of ritual and theatrical spirituality; but, even after the churches were defenestrated, the same appetite for drama migrated into tavern clubs and debating societies as well as into the patent theatres of the 18th century and the penny gaffs of the 19th century. This sense of dramatic ritual may in turn be related to what Porter calls the "popular paganism" of the urban poor in the centuries which may also include our own.

Perhaps Russell's *London* is a more civilised place than that of Porter. His is a capital of salons and grand parties, of opera and ballet, of *bijou* houses and great churches. Those of a demonic cast of mind might even suggest that his book



Trafalgar Square on George VI's Coronation Day, 1937, by Henri Cartier-Bresson. From *Bystander: A History of Street Photography* by Colin Westerbeck & Joel Meyerowitz (Thames & Hudson £40)

exhibits the nostalgia for a London which no longer exists, but in truth there is nothing nostalgic about it at all. All versions of London exist contemporaneously, and no one can understand its present without being imbued in its past.

That is why Russell is so good on the subject of contemporary London architecture and recent urban developments. He is not one of those provincial Jeremiahs who cry woe whenever a new "office-block" is raised in Docklands or Leadenhall, because he quite rightly understands such developments within the context of London's continuing

history. He notes, for example, that Canary Wharf has turned out to be "remarkably sensitive to London light. Sometimes it can blaze like a sunburst, and at other times it turns soft and fugitive, almost Whistlerian..."

It would be interesting to hear Whistler's own reply but even that famous emigre could hardly deny the justice of Russell's later remark that "after a day or two roaming round the late 19th-century City of London, I had nothing against a well-thought-out and well-mounted charade". This is the history of London in a phrase. Those journal-

ists who still insist upon talking about "post-modernism" as if we were some quite novel enterprise might care to note that the history of London architecture (and indeed of London literature) is established upon the strategic redeployment of past styles.

Both books, then, are valuable for different reasons. We will agree with Roy Porter that the city is decaying. We will agree with John Russell that it is still being transformed in ever more agreeable and inventive ways. It is, after all, as another Londoner put it in the late 18th century, "Infinite London".

The age of carbuncles

Giles Worsley

THE CLASSICAL VERNACULAR
Architectural Principles
in an Age of Nihilism
By Roger Scruton
Corgi, £19.95

THE OLD WAY OF SEEING

How Architecture lost its Magic (and how to get it back)
By Jonathan Hale
Corgi, £15.99

Roger Scruton and Jonathan Hale both believe that architecture has gone seriously wrong, but they disagree when the wrong direction was taken and why. For Scruton, the European, the problem is the loss of sophistication. The "false moon of Modernism" has destroyed the carefully cultivated aesthetic sensibility of Western civilisation and replaced it with dubious doctrines of rationality and functionalism.

Hale, an American, laments the loss of innocence. It is not the 20th century that is at fault but the 19th. The key date is about 1830 when America's agrarian innocence was lost, to be replaced with the calculating eye. As sophistication is arguably easier to recapture than innocence, Scruton's analysis seems more likely to bear fruit than Hale's.

What Scruton has to say will infuriate many architects, for it contradicts the assumptions on which they base their practice. If there is one nostrum that most architects share, it is that the form of a building should be determined by its function and that facades should reflect the way the interior works. There is nothing new about this. It is central, for instance, to Palladian architecture. But there is an alternative approach — evident in much Elizabethan architecture — that the facade is as important, if not more so, than the interior, and that there is no particular reason why the two should relate.

Scruton is of this school. For him architecture is above all a civic art. What matters is the appearance of buildings, the way they help create the public realm, and by defining the public realm define the private realm. This can make sense for the majority of ordinary buildings — and it is with ordinary buildings not masterpieces that Scruton concerns himself. He looks at buildings with banal and simple interiors which can be equally appropriately expressed through the regular grid of windows of a Georgian terrace, the romantic variety of an Edwardian mansion block or the unbroken strip of windows of the late 20th-century office building.

As the appearance of a building is its most important feature, Scruton believes an architect's key attribute is a highly developed aesthetic sensibility — of the sort that was still evident among Edwardian architects. But this has been destroyed by those cornerstones of Modernism, the architectural schools. Scruton is uncertain whether it can be regained under their regime. Perhaps the only one which would seem to fit in with Scruton's prescription is the Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture.

The contrast lies between aesthetic sensibility and artistic self-expression, which is still the dogma of most architectural schools. Although the odd genius will always be able to break the rules, Scruton argues that self-expression is inappropriate for the mass of architects. The confusion of architecture with art lies at the heart of many problems — perhaps because architectural schools are too closely modelled on art schools.

What Scruton seeks is a civilised architectural style that can be guaranteed to result in an attractive building even in the hands of a second-rate architect. He finds it in the free Classical style — what he calls the Classical vernacular — of the early years of this century. Interestingly, this is a style which many architects find increasingly appealing. The example Scruton cites, and which graces the cover of his book, is W. Curtis Green's Chiswick Power Station of 1901, a building which needs only a simple box to serve its purpose, but which the confident Edwardians gave a richly exuberant facade. This means that when it became redundant it had sufficient visual appeal to attract a new use. Hence Scruton's belief that the most practical buildings are not those that most accurately fulfil their original function but, since functions change rapidly, those which will be attractive enough to warrant re-use.

Scruton's appeal to civic values and aesthetic judgement is easy to grasp. Hale, on the other hand, is more nebulous. He believes that unconsciously "we all possess an attitude towards design, the 'old way of seeing', we just need to get in touch with it. For Scruton, the answer is the rediscovery of the classic values of European civilisation. For Hale it is self-enlightenment. At the moment neither looks particularly likely.

Giles Worsley is Editor of *Perspectives on Architecture*, which was launched by the Prince of Wales this year.

Does Rupert Christiansen like the French? It would be hard to tell from *Tales of the New Babylon*, his book about Paris during the Siege and the Commune. He is obviously fascinated by them, and tells a very readable story — but the sound of mocking laughter hangs over almost every page. He starts with a vivid portrait of the house-parties given by Louis-Napoléon and the Empress Eugénie at the chateau of Compiègne each autumn in the 1860s. The guests arrived from the railway station in "a magnificent crocodile of charabancs", and the royal visitors, the dignitaries, the aristocrats and the artists began their orgy of fawning and being fawned upon, competitive dressing-up (top women by Worth), and boredom. When the men went hunting, they had to wear Louis XV green frock-coats and tricornes — all part of the Emperor's need to give a few paint-spots of legitimacy to his reign. Flaubert was invited to Compiègne once, and was "very much entertained", but looking back later on the last years of the Second Empire, he declared bitterly: "Everything was fakery."

That is Christiansen's theme — without the bitterness. He goes on to describe the way in which Carpeaux's statue of two naked women dancing round Bacchus was vilified when it was unveiled outside the new Opéra — while "behind the gauze and fumery, the opera house was peddling little more than naked sexual titillation". (Incidentally, the ink-stained statue is now in the Musée d'Orsay.) In a chapter unashamedly called "The Spermal Economy", he mocks the authorities' dilemma as they try to promote "male vigour" and swell the population, while cracking down on the 30,000 prostitutes that were turning Paris into an "erotic minefield".

He points out "the great irony of Haussmannisation" — how the building Baron's 17-year-long modernisation of

Fakery and fornication



Vestal Virgin lamps by Chabaud outside Garnier's Opéra (1861-75). From *Métropolitain: A Portrait of Paris* by Matthew Weinreb & Fiona Biddulph (Penguin, £29.99)

Derwent May

TALES OF THE NEW BABYLON
Paris 1860-1875
By Rupert Christiansen
Sinclair-Stevenson, £20

Paris, creating fine boulevards and sweeping away slums, brought at the same time so many new workers into the city that there was now a vast, anonymous, lit-house population, "a kaleidoscope of the

unrecognisable", who were perfect under for revolution. He is very hard on the absurdity of the French declaration of war on Prussia in 1870, provoked by what was thought to be an insult to the French Ambassador by King Wilhelm, during discussions over the future of the Spanish crown. He is even harder on the bloodthirstiness of the French — "At last we are going to know the delights of massacre" wrote *Paris Journal* — when their army was in such a hopeless state.

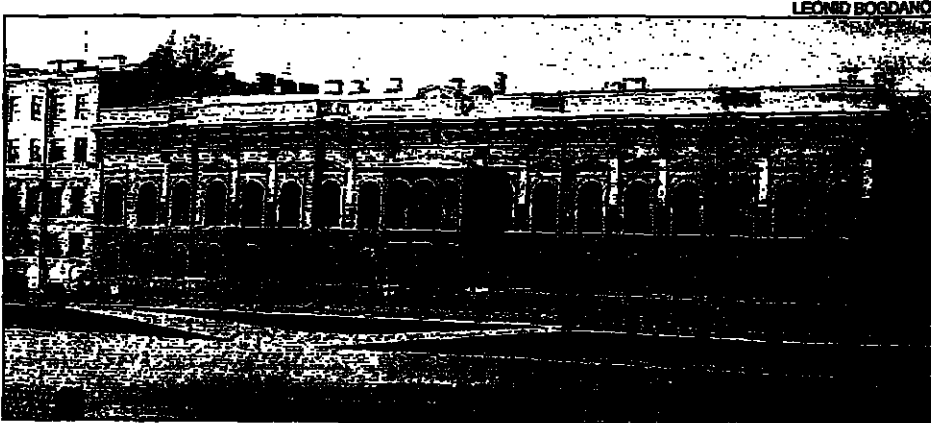
As for the war and the Siege of Paris itself (which is described in diary form), the overwhelming impression is of total military incompetence by the Emperor and the government, while a workless Parisian proletariat enjoys its luck and drinks away its days as hastily recruited members of the Garde Nationale. The Emperor becomes a prisoner at Sedan, the Empress flees to England with the aid of her American dentist, disguising herself at one point as a maniac. Victor Hugo returns from exile, and "his bottomless windbag exhales massive belches of oracular patriotism", while Parisians eat macaroni with field-mouse sauce.

Now the *champs de bataille* moves to Paris itself where, as the Prussians sit and wait outside singing Lutheran chorales, the new Republican government and the Communards are squaring up to each other. A few noble voices are heard in the babel that Christiansen records so wittily — but on both sides they are outnumbered by the foolish. The armistice with Prussia comes, and the Communards seize their opportunity and take Paris over. In its turn the Commune is soon overthrown by the army, directed by President Thiers from Versailles.

This is the one point at which Christiansen shows himself deeply moved by the horrific story he has been chronicling so lightly. He has real respect for the Communards' dreams, and is shocked and grieved by the way so many of them were slaughtered by their fellow-countrymen. After that we return to a Paris where the tourists are back flocking to "the eerie beauty of the burnt-out ruins".

Christiansen has inconceivably written an enjoyable book. But the history of which it forms part is that well-known English history of the Frivolous French — a history, perhaps, that will never come to an end.

Window on the wicked West



The Shuvalov Palace: Giacomo Quarenghi's facade dates from the 1790s. From *The Romanov Legacy: The Palaces of St Petersburg* by Zoya Belyakova (Hazar, £35)

Lesley Chamberlain

ONE HOT SUMMER IN ST PETERSBURG
By Duncan Fallowell
Jonathan Cape, £16.99

A VISIT TO ST PETERSBURG, 1824-25
By Cornélie de Wassenaar
Translated by Igor Vinogradoff
Michael Russell, £14.95

Fallowell was an unresolved puzzle to his Russian hostesses, who got a rude shock when they tried to boss him about and wake him before midday to eat his porridge and curds. He collided with surviving Soviet innocence, prudishness, intrusiveness, coarseness, odd sulking, sudden switching off in the middle of conversations. He felt the usual desperate Western craving for a dose of superficiality after the unremitting intensity, but found other foreigners in his lodgings might have been fatter had he been more sympathetic to imperfect Russian womanhood. Years of disinfection

and dependence on rumour and superstition don't just melt away. Heat means light, Fallowell tells us, in a somewhat sententious 50-point summation. Light cast on Russia? I think only in the short term. I rather regretted that, having fallen in love with a young man called Dima, he found there the meaning of his trip. To many Russians the new lawlessness spells darkness, as well as liberty.

As for the Russian character, will a Russian visitor please write a book about us? Evidently we are far apart. Cornélie de Wassenaar was most sympathetic to Tsar Alexander I during her year as maid of honour with the visiting Prince and Princess of Orange. The Dutch heiress, quarrelled with her mother and her mother's maid, kept a diary in French. There she recorded the wretchedness of travelling with ten-year-old postillions who routinely fell from their perch, the mud and dust and snow thrown up by seemingly romantic drozhkiys, and the overblown, wasteful rituals of court life, where every Russian was encased in dress tight enough to shorten life.

Cornélie shared Fallowell's love of music — in her case Weber and Rossini — which helped to pass the time. Believing herself both vulnerably rich and personally undesirable, however, she neither sought nor found a partner in the busy marriage market. Hers is a strong spirit imbued with a Protestant sense of moderation and a fresh wit. At 24 she is innocent but not childish. Memoirs are her first-hand accounts of the 1824 floods immortalised in Pushkin's poem *The Bronze Horseman* and the untouched room where Tsar Paul was murdered. Cornélie saw in Alexander's wife a neglected woman, disliked by her mother-in-law and betrayed by her increasingly mystical and moody husband. One only wishes she had elaborated on the pathos of the House of Romanov a few months before the Decembrists' uprising. The poet Zhukovsky sensed Cornélie's worth when he said meeting her at court was like having a hot summer spelt by wasps.

Lesley Chamberlain's *Volga, Volga: A journey down Russia's great river* will be published in January by Random.

Ian McIntyre on the compulsively readable letters of Kenneth Peacock Tynan, the outstanding attention-seeker of his generation

Playboy of the theatrical world

KENNETH TYNAN
Letters
Edited by Kathleen Tynan
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £22

One winter when he was in his forties, Ken Tynan's emphysema drove him off to a hotel in Tunis. He made scant progress with the book he had begun on Wilhelm Reich, but discovered with delight the prose of Lord Byron. "If I ever write an autobiography," he told his wife, "Byron has found me the title." He quoted the passage: "When one subtracts from life infancy (which is vegetation), — sleep, eating and swelling — buttoning and unbuttoning — how much remains of downright existence? The summer of a dormouse."

Eight years later he was dead, the story of his dormouse summer largely unrecorded. His widow Kathleen was highly praised for the account she gave of it seven years ago. Now, with this selection of his letters, she has assembled a companion volume to that biography — part appendix, part glossary, part annotations. It makes compulsive and deeply painful reading.

Kenneth Peacock Tynan was the outstanding attention-seeker of his generation. At a school election he stood as an Independent Confu-

cian, and sent himself telegrams of support from Gandhi and Chiang Kai-shek. "I was riveted," said a local actress. "You simply didn't see people like that in Birmingham."

Nor in post war Oxford, where he affected a purple doekin suit and played the Chorus in *Medea* in handkerchiefs and pink tights. His tutor at Magdalen, C.S. Lewis, thought he had the makings of a good First or an interesting Third. If Lamb and Gibbon had been the same person, he told Tynan, his were the kind of essays they would have produced at prep school.

When National Service threatened, Tynan doused himself liberally with Yardley's lavender,

hammed up his natural stammer and informed an army psychiatrist that he was incapable of having sexual relations without the aid of spurs. Authority decided that the defence of the realm would best be assured by exemption. "Oxford's best journalist, objectionable Kenneth Tynan," as *Isis* described him ("I am well contented," he wrote), was ready for a larger stage.

He was a peerless phrase-maker. James Agate's style was that of "a butcher boy hypnotized by Beerbohm"; Eardtha Kitt was "a coloured singer with the daintiness of a wax figurine and the arrogance of an Arab pony"; John Gielgud's production of *Richard III* was "pretty gilded, but as cold and clammy as the estuary of the Ob"; Olivier's misgivings about taking him on as dramaturge at the National Theatre are understandable: "How shall we slaughter the little bastard?" he asked his wife.



Ken Tynan: jeunesse dorée

Like many theatre folk, Tynan did not see why ignorance of the issues should inhibit him from expressing vehement views about politics. The Common Market, he

informed *Times* readers in 1971, was "the economic arm of Nazism". In its fullest development it would be "the most blatant historical vulgarity since the thousand Year Reich". Fidel Castro, he assured Terry Kilmartin, the literary editor of *The Observer*, was "excellent, ebullient, and a real radical". And to his American agent, a query about some proposed interviews: "I'd like to do Chou En-lai, Mao Tse-tung or Khrushchev, but I have no contacts with any of them: has Playboy?"

It was not only politically that he showed signs of retardation. He was also a textbook gift to Freudians, who postulate that when a component of the libido is arrested at an immature stage a person may be led to abnormal attachments. Tynan was fixated on sex.

He got off to a shaky start with "Basic Baroque", described here as "KPT's homage to the female bottom". The editor of *Playboy* was unimpressed ("To be brutally

frank, it seems to have an archness which is middle-aged"), but fixations are by definition stubborn, and within a year or two Tynan was outlining his initial ideas for *Oh! Calcutta!* and asking his agent what interest there might be in a defence of hard-core pornography.

The saddest letter in the book, written in his middle forties, announces the birth of his third child. "Ever fearful of the competing prick, I had hoped for another girl," he told Penelope Gilliatt. It was a boy, however, with long eyelashes and feminine looks: "I have entered him for the Royal Ballet School, and am buying him a few nice frocks, so all should be well, or wellish."

Wellish it remained. Never again more than that. He had been the wittiest, the most feared theatre critic of his generation. He had been a stylish polemicist, with a devastating line in relaxed inso-

lence. He had insisted with passion on the importance of high definition performance — "supreme professional polish, hard-edged technical skill, the effortless precision without which no artistic enterprise... can inscribe itself on our memory".

The mature Tynan proposed inscribing himself on the public memory with a collection of masturbatory fantasies by famous writers and told Lord Fisher of Lambeth that if a stage or film show caused him to have an erection his immediate reaction was "gratitude for a nice experience".

On special occasions he composed chirpy, wistful verses for his children. "Down with the tyrants, / The prudes and the owners!" he wrote to his daughter on her twentieth birthday: "Arriba the rebels, / The clowns and the loners!"

He himself was rebel, clown and loner to the last. The prudes and the owners were really neither here nor there, but his own inner demons were tyrants of the blackest dye, and stronger than he knew.

Whom the gods love...

Had he lived, Iain Macleod would have been 81 this month. Along with Heath, Maundling, Powell and Soames, he belonged to a notable postwar generation of Tory politicians. Many thought him the most gifted and formidable of them all. His sudden death at the age of 56, when he was about to take up his greatest political challenge, had a seismic effect upon his party's fortunes.

People saw him (as indeed he saw himself) as the standard-bearer of enlightened Tory radicalism. His liberal and libertarian views were allied with a singular and powerful personality. He was romantic and hard-headed, visionary and practical, poetic and earthy. He was also a superbly equipped political operator with a streak of the gambler's recklessness.

Macleod's brand of liberal Toryism went drastically out of fashion afterwards; nevertheless it seems impossible to believe that he would have been eclipsed with it. How much of its decline, it is reasonable to wonder, was brought about by his absence? Certainly he would have played a crucial part during the Heath Government and afterwards. And certainly our political history would have been different as a result.

It was time for a detailed study of Macleod. This welcome biography presents a convincing portrait of the man. It also (thanks to Shep-

herd's access to Central Office archives) provides a revealing account of his career. The portrait is not easy to draw. Macleod was one of the great bridge players of his day (indeed, when sowing his wild oats in the 1930s he lived by his gambling) and he always kept his cards close to his chest. For all his wit, candour and good humour, there was a reticence in his nature. I knew him quite well for years, both as a Cabinet minister and as a

J.W.M. Thompson

IAIN MACLEOD
By Robert Shepherd
Hutchinson, £25

journalistic colleague, and I was always aware of this undisclosed area of his personality. Many others felt the same. Perhaps a natural reserve was accentuated by the constant pain which his spinal disease inflicted upon him, and which he bore with stoic courage.

Anyone reading this absorbing book will be bound to reflect, I fear, that there is no one like Iain Macleod on the political scene today. For one thing, he was an orator — "the last of the Tory orators", Macmillan said. Unlike today's trudging practitioners of the politician's trade, he could thrill and delight an audience and, as John Major has recalled, send them home uplifted. His best speeches were

carefully thought out, eloquently expressed and spiced with wit, scorn and poetry; and he had a memorable speaking voice. He was also his party's ablest performer on television. Judged in the light of Balfour's remark that "democracy is government by explanation", Macleod was the greatest democrat of his day.

He was fond of quoting Lord Randolph Churchill's maxim, "Trust the people." He could not abide what he called the "Nanny State", with officials and politicians forever telling people what was good for them. (He was always a pro-European: but I can imagine his contempt for the Nanny Superstate, now manifested in the torrent of regulations from Brussels.) He believed in the primacy of individual conscience, but without (as Shepherd adds, wisely in view of his subject's cheerful lifestyle) any puritan trappings. That was the essence of his political philosophy. It showed itself whether he was negotiating independence for African colonies or arguing for a variety of liberal causes at home.

Parallel with this was his devotion to the welfare state and his determination to improve it. He stood for a distinctive blend of libertarian ideas and paternalist care. Much of this came, as Shepherd demonstrates, from the influence of his high-minded Hebridean parents. His father was a conscientious doctor and his mother was given to public service. Their example had a powerful effect.

He would not have been comfortable with the laissez-faire economics which later became the vogue in Tory circles. "Competition needs compassion," he once said. He was too tough a customer ever to have been designated a "wet", even so it is a poignant thought that, when he became Heath's shadow Chancellor, he picked Margaret Thatcher as his second-in-command. He is even quoted as saying



Iain Macleod (right) in 1950 with his agent during his first campaign at Enfield West: within two years of his election he was Minister of Health

that she would one day lead the party.

Macleod's own very proper ambition, of course, was to lead the party himself. But his famous refusal to serve under Alec Douglas-Home did not arise, as some thought, out of pique because he had been passed over. It arose because of his burning indignation that, as a result of Macmillan's manipulation of the system from his sickbed, Macleod's mentor R.A. Butler had yet again been denied the highest office.

That affair, and the ructions within the party caused by Macleod's celebrated article in the *Spectator* exposing its hidden details, are well treated in Shepherd's book. As one who was there, I can confirm

that his account of Macleod's editorship of that journal is true to life. When Iain Gilmour gave him the job, some people took the rather priggish view that it was wrong for a politician to edit an independent review.

I was a good joke that, within weeks of his appointment, he wrote and published the fiercest attack on the Tory Establishment seen in years. So much for the notion that he would be a lackey of Central Office. For a time afterwards he thought that he had finished his political career with that article. Its boldness, even recklessness, was typical of the man. He had climbed back al-

most to the top of the greasy pole when he died. Had he lived, might he finally have reached the summit? As Shepherd notes, Mrs Thatcher contested the party leadership primarily to get rid of Heath after the two election defeats of 1974. The presence of Macleod as a powerful and senior contender might yet have changed history. As he wittily observed in the *Spectator*: "The Conservative Party always in time forgives those who were wrong. Indeed often, in time, they forgive those who were right."

J.W.M. Thompson was deputy editor of *The Spectator* under Iain Macleod and Nigel Lawson and later editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*.

Asocial security

Adam LeBar

OUT OF ROMANIA

By Dan Antal
Faber, £14.99

AS A student Dan Antal, like most Romanians, found it almost impossible to escape Ceausescu's nightmare. In 1989 came the revolution. Then the problem was finding a country that would allow him in. Now living in London with his family, Antal has written an autobiography.

He admits he played a mere bit part in Ceausescu's horrific theatre of the absurd. He spent the outbreak of the revolution in a luxurious party hospital, his bed gained by family connections. He was not one of Romania's pitifully small number of dissidents, although his love of Western art marked him out for the Securitate's attention.

Yet Antal's story vividly brings to life the dread of daily existence under the Great Conductor. Particularly moving are the painful realisations of how his father's compromises helped him to survive the attentions of the Securitate. Yet for all its gloomy setting, *Out of Romania* is highly entertaining. Its pages burst with characters as rich and complex as those of a novel: Bacchus, a roistering teacher of philosophy, who escapes in a lorry delivering clothes to Turkey; the Securitate officer who — curiously

enough — retains a similar position after the revolution.

If, indeed, revolution is the word, Antal's apparent belief that the Securitate organised the bloody events of December 1989, supported by the Soviet Union, is widespread now in Romania. President Ion Iliescu (in London this week for talks with John Major) was once a highly-placed official in the *ancien régime*. But it was still a shock for Antal when, just before he left Romania, a former Securitate officer took him for a beer and said: "Securitate changed Ceausescu. It will change Iliescu too if he is not a good boy."

TIMES BOOKS

SATURDAY

Anthony Holden on the Kennedy women; plus Graham Lord on Venice and Jonathan Keates

THE TIMES DILLONS FORUM

Sir John Harvey-Jones

IN business, people are the most powerful resource we have, but still the most under-exploited. We underestimate their intelligence and their initiative and we fail to get the best out of them for business. So argues John Harvey-Jones, one of Britain's best-known and most admired businessmen, in his new book *All Together Now*.

John Harvey-Jones will put forward the blueprint for people-management that he believes could put the UK at the forefront of world business at this Times/Dillons Forum. The forum will take place in the Logan Hall, Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1 on Wednesday November 9 at 7.30 pm. John Harvey-Jones will be signing copies of his new book after the event.

Tickets to this event, priced at £10 (concessions £7.50), are available by calling Dillons on 071 915 6613 or by completing and posting the form below.

THE TIMES DILLONS FORUM

Sir John Harvey-Jones

Please send me — tickets at £10 each (concessions £7.50) for the John Harvey-Jones lecture at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1 on Wednesday November 9 at 7.30 pm.

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Verdi's diva in distress

Antonia Fraser

THE REAL TRAVIATA

By Gaia Servadio
Hodder/John Curtis, £20

Gaia Servadio, a spirited Italian writer who has lived in England for many years, has had the bright idea of studying Giuseppina Strepponi, the wife of Giuseppe Verdi and a former singer known as "La Peppina". Servadio has certainly brought to her task everything that sympathy, coupled with energetic research, can provide, and it is hardly her fault if *La Peppina* which emerges is a sadly depressing creature.

In spite of all Servadio's efforts, I could not help longing for more about Verdi himself, or at any rate his mistress Teresa Stolz (who would surely have made a much jollier subject) and less about poor Giuseppina.

Of course, in principle Servadio is quite right to steer clear of the great man. She writes: "In evaluating letters and documents, I have tried to keep my distance from Verdi, that giant personality, who might have distracted me..." This is in a sense a perfectly honourable position: let *La Peppina* have her due after her death, let her emerge from the shadow of the giant. Unfortunately the mere reader is not so willing to make sacrifices as the biographer.

The story begins well and in a lively fashion, that is, before

the giant shadow falls. The picture painted by Servadio of the Italian musical world in the early part of the 19th century is intriguing. Here is, in operative terms, a vanished world — or one rather hopes so: impresarios with *droit de seigneur* over young singers; Giuseppina herself gave birth to a couple of illegitimate children in pursuit of her ambitions, and was probably not quite clear about their parentage. (Two rival tenors and one impresario were candidates for the fatherhood of one child.)

These high jinks were the background to a dazzling musical career, at least at its start. Servadio surmises that Giuseppina's voice "had more of a Callas-like quality rather than a Joan Sutherland one" since "vibrant resonance" was its distinguishing feature. Be that as it may, *La Peppina* incarnated the perfect Bellini heroine: a romantic damsel in melancholy distress, and telling the audience all about it in a series of thrilling trills. But Giuseppina shared another



Giuseppina Strepponi

attribute with Callas: she began losing her wonderful voice comparatively young. At this point — when Giuseppina knew secretly that her voice was fading — she met the young Verdi in Milan.

Verdi was already married, but a long extra-marital relationship ensued, including a happy domestic household at Passy, which Servadio compares to the country life of Violetta and Alfredo in *La Traviata*. It would be many years before this Alfredo married his Violetta, and then it was in secret, with a coachman and a bellringer as witnesses. And as Giuseppina's talent and beauty faded, Verdi sought another muse/mistress.

These long years of Giuseppina's humiliation — born in 1815, she lived until 1895 — make dispiriting reading. Who could wonder that Giuseppina suffered from severe bouts of depression? The alternative was sitting in Verdi's box on state occasions, and having spectators wonder who the "old woman in a box in the third row" might be. At less public festivities, it was now Teresa Stolz who was on Verdi's arm.

Finally Stolz too began to lose her voice, but that was no glorious revenge for poor Peppina, by now too old and frail to care. She had sought for many years to establish a friendship with Stolz, expressed in gushing letters, as a way of preserving some semblance of her own position. In her will she left Stolz a diamond bracelet inscribed with the word "souvenir".

I could not help reflecting that the fiery Giuseppina of her early years would have lacerated her rival with the bracelet, rather than hand it (or Verdi) over. But time, decline of talent and ill-health, coupled with a submissive relationship to a genius, had fatally reduced Giuseppina. Perhaps Violetta was lucky to die of consumption when she was still young, beautiful — and in Alfredo's arms.

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Bates sees glimmer of hope amid gloom

SAN DIEGO: America's Cup class world championship: Race two: 1. oneAustralia (J Bertrand, AUS), 2. Nippon 94 (P Gilmour, Japan); 3. Stars & Stripes (D Conner, US), 4. Nippon 92 (J Ourler, Japan), 5. America's (J Isler, US).

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Lochsong relaxes before sprint test

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT
IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

THE more one sees of the perimeter fence surrounding Churchill Downs racetrack, the easier it becomes to understand the magnitude of the task. Twelve feet tall and swathed in barbed wire coils, the fence conjures more than images of tight security. It stands as a monument to American intent, which will not readily be parted with the \$10 million bounty up for grabs on Breeders' Cup day.

For the time being, however, the fence is protecting the ten-strong British contingent who arrived safely on Tuesday night. The queen is in situ; her travelling companion, Ken Cox, said of the imperious mare: "Lochsong slept for most of the way. She put her head down and her ears were floppy. Now we just have to keep her relaxed until the stalls open on Saturday."

Cox's words had a simple resonance. As it was indeed uplifting to see the French entourage, resplendent in fluorescent bandages, file out of the quarantine barn in formation for the first time yesterday. If, by their company, they resembled chargers in a cavalry, it must be hoped they are not heading for their Agincourt.

The signs are ominous: Ski Paradise, East Of The Moon, Dernier Empereur and Hatoot all appeared distinctly wintry in their coats. It is yet another source of concern when set against the physical condition of Lure, As Shug McCaughey, who trains the mighty five-year-old, cast a casual eye over the French collection, he will have reflected that Lure glowed with health in the brilliant morning sunlight.

If Lure's presence makes it difficult to foresee a European victory in the Mile, the latest



Lure, chasing his third Breeders' Cup Mile success, has been pushed out in the betting because of his unfavourable wide draw

gallop undertaken by Paradise Creek merely consolidated his position as a hot favourite for the Turf. Tempting though it may be to muse on his lack of experience at 12 furlongs, Paradise Creek impressed work-watchers yet Bill Mott, who trains Paradise Creek, threw the spotlight on

his stable companion, Fraise. Mott deemed Fraise back to his best, a disturbing pronouncement for the European, given Fraise's victory in the Turf two years ago.

Among the French, Hernando and Millon most caught the eye. Millon's well-being is probably significant; he is trained in the warmer climes of southern France. But sentiment demands a victory for Hernando, whose trainer, Francois Boutin, handled Miesque so superbly.

There is further interest within the Boutin camp. Boutin's wife, Lucy, is the

daughter of Bill Young, a prominent owner here who will be represented by four runners on Saturday. Three of them — Tabasco Cat, Timber Country and the outstanding Flanders — are accorded a favourite's chance.

Luca Cumani's two runners, Barathia and Only Royale, continue to thrive in appearance. As both horses tested the turf track for the first time yesterday, Cumani maintained a guarded optimism in the face of an inquisitive local media attracted by the health of his team.

The trainer said: "The only concession in stable management we made before coming here was to work them over a replica of the bend here, which Peter Amos, head of the

gallops team at Newmarket, kindly marked out after getting the specific measurements from Churchill Downs."

Such planning deserves its reward, although Cumani was deflated to find Barathia drawn in stall one when post positions were established yesterday. Had he been McCaughey, he would have been horrified by Lure's position on the wide outside in stall 14, a berth referred to here as the "parking lot slot."

Ladbrokes reacted swiftly to the news, easing Lure to 2-1 from 5-4, even though the five-year-old defied a similar handicap to prevail at Santa Anita 12 months ago.

Diary, page 18

Draw favours British challenge

IN ORDINARY circumstances, the connections of Lochsong would have been delighted with a position in stall six for her assault on the Breeders' Cup Sprint on Saturday (Julian Muscat writes). However, with two particularly swift starters drawn either side of her, there is a chance she might not see the daylight on which she thrives.

Lochsong, who leaves quarantine this morning for a reconnaissance of the dirt surface,

must race over an extended six furlongs, a distance that would make her vulnerable in Europe. If the distance is not ideal, her starting position offers some compensation.

In the Mile, Distant View, Bigstone and East Of The Moon are well placed in stalls five, six and seven, at the expense of Missed Flight in stall 13. Elfish, from whom Pat Eddery is expecting a bold show in the Juvenile, has been

favoured in stall six.

UTTOXETER

THUNDERER
1.30 Kelling, 2.00 Ho-Joe, 2.30 Wadely, 3.00 Nighnall, 3.30 Indian Tonic, 4.00 Indian Arrow.

GOING: GOOD

1.30 INVEST IN EAST STAFFORDSHIRE NOVICES HURDLE (25.50; 2m 5f) (14 runners)

1801 1801 FINEST WINE 7 (F.S.S.) M. Dwyer 59
1802 1802 CHAMPION 10 (F.S.S.) M. Dwyer 59
1803 1803 THE GOLFING GURU 10 (F.S.S.) M. Dwyer 59
1804 1804 MAN OF THE RING 10 (F.S.S.) M. Dwyer 59
1805 1805 LINDA 10 (F.S.S.) M. Dwyer 59
1806 1806 SALLY 10 (F.S.S.) M. Dwyer 59
1807 1807 GORDON 10 (F.S.S.) M. Dwyer 59
1808 1808 SUI 10 (F.S.S.) M. Dwyer 59
1809 1809 SUI 10 (F.S.S.) M. Dwyer 59
1810 1810 SUI 10 (F.S.S.) M. Dwyer 59
1811 1811 SUI 10 (F.S.S.) M. Dwyer 59
1812 1812 SUI 10 (F.S.S.) M. Dwyer 59
1813 1813 SUI 10 (F.S.S.) M. Dwyer 59
1814 1814 SUI 10 (F.S.S.) M. Dwyer 59
1815 1815 SUI 10 (F.S.S.) M. Dwyer 59

2.00 PETER DAVIS TRACTORS SELLING HURDLE (18.72; 2m) (13)

201 201 HO-JOE 10 (F.S.S.) M. Dwyer 59
202 202 WADLEY 10 (F.S.S.) M. Dwyer 59
203 203 NIGHNALL 10 (F.S.S.) M. Dwyer 59
204 204 INDIAN TONIC 10 (F.S.S.) M. Dwyer 59
205 205 INDIAN ARROW 10 (F.S.S.) M. Dwyer 59
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2.30 UNDERGEAR TERRA TIRE NOVICES CHASE (23.43; 3m 2f) (8)

301 301 CHAMBER HIRE 22 (F.S.S.) M. Dwyer 59
302 302 HALEY'S PRINCE 22 (F.S.S.) M. Dwyer 59
303 303 MURPHY STREET 22 (F.S.S.) M. Dwyer 59
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RESULTS OF BREEDERS' CUP MEETINGS

Haydock Park
1.00 (2m 5f) 1. Epona (M. Smith, 7) 12.50, 2. Tim A. Dwyer (M. Smith, 7) 12.50, 3. Rocco (M. Smith, 7) 12.50, 4. Tim A. Dwyer (M. Smith, 7) 12.50, 5. Rocco (M. Smith, 7) 12.50, 6. Tim A. Dwyer (M. Smith, 7) 12.50, 7. Rocco (M. Smith, 7) 12.50, 8. Tim A. Dwyer (M. Smith, 7) 12.50, 9. Rocco (M. Smith, 7) 12.50, 10. Tim A. Dwyer (M. Smith, 7) 12.50, 11. Rocco (M. Smith, 7) 12.50, 12. Tim A. Dwyer (M. Smith, 7) 12.50, 13. Rocco (M. Smith, 7) 12.50, 14. Tim A. Dwyer (M. Smith, 7) 12.50, 15. Rocco (M. Smith, 7) 12.50, 16. Tim A. Dwyer (M. Smith, 7) 12.50, 17. Rocco (M. Smith, 7) 12.50, 18. Tim A. Dwyer (M. Smith, 7) 12.50, 19. Rocco (M. Smith, 7) 12.50, 20. Tim A. Dwyer (M. Smith, 7) 12.50, 21. Rocco (M. Smith, 7) 12.50, 22. Tim A. Dwyer (M. Smith, 7) 12.50, 23. Rocco (M. Smith, 7) 12.50, 24. Tim A. Dwyer (M. Smith, 7) 12.50, 25. Rocco (M. Smith, 7) 12.50, 26. Tim A. Dwyer (M. Smith, 7) 12.50, 27. Rocco (M. Smith, 7) 12.50, 28. Tim A. Dwyer (M. Smith, 7) 12.50, 29. Rocco (M. 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In pursuit of a thoroughgoing villain

Lord Lucan, Radovan Karadzic, Richard III. Evil madmen or much misunderstood good eggs? After an evening spent in their respective companies, I still don't know. But, as they say in police circles, I do have more information to go on.

Much, much more information in the case of Lord Lucan, whose celebrated vanishing act was the subject of the fascinating *Murder in Belgravia: The Lucan Affair* (BBC 1). Like many, I have grown up with Lord Lucan, or rather without him, as it is nearly 20 years since the errant earl scribbled his excuses and left. In fact, it will be 20 years exactly on Monday since the bleeding Lady Lucan staggered into the Plumbers Arms and announced "he's murdered our nanny". Hence the renewed fuss.

Short of Michael Aspel marking the return of *This is Your Life* to BBC1 by pressing the famous red

book into the hands of a surprised 60-year-old stumbling out of a South American bookies, I thought little could rekindle my only passing interest in the case. But I reckoned without that veteran storyteller, Lukovic Kennedy.

We started, however, with a red herring: the introductory music, a variation on the John Barry themes that introduced so many fictional tales of aristocratic intrigue in the 1960s and 1970s and to which the story of this handsome professional gambler so readily lends itself. But this was real life, as Kennedy quickly reminded us. Someone had been murdered, the Lucan's 29-year-old nanny, Sandra Rivett. "What exactly happened at 46 Lower Belgrave Street that night?" asked Kennedy, with the confident air of a man who knows his reconstruction ropes.

The programme was an unlikely success, given the absence of its central character and the lack of

new evidence. Kennedy and the director, Adeline Alani, had assembled an impressive cast of family, friends and old flames to tell their parts of the story.

True, the softly-softly approach of the early interviews did smack of an upper-class dosing of rank. But Michael Aspel is entirely excused from my thoughts: "Lucky Lucan, you haven't seen her for 20 years - in fact, you haven't seen anyone for 20 years - but she's here tonight..." But with the help of a gallant band of frustrated former policemen and the splendid Sir James Connolly, Lucan's barrister, order and balance were quickly restored.

Kennedy's own view is that Lucan boarded a night ferry to France and being both bankrupt and an accessory to murder, slipped quietly over the side. Inevitably, perhaps, the programme

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

led to the same conclusions, despite the confident and far more interesting assertion of Connolly that he knew of a good "half a dozen people" who had disappeared for long periods. Just after his bill arrived, I expect.

Over on BBC2, some pretty serious questions were being raised, this time about the Life Guards. Like what is it with this regiment? Not content with the

kiss and tell memoirs of Majors Ron and Hewitt, here was a mere captain going even further - kissing and filming. Living with the Enemy was the latest catchy title dreamt up by those bright boys at the Community Television Unit in their desperate search for viewers, but for large sections of Richard Bramford's video diary *Snogging with the Girlfriend* would have been more accurate.

As a United Nations military observer in Bosnia, Bramford has broken bread with his neighbour in Pale, Dr Karadzic. "We live at No 30 High Road, he lives at No 30" - but what he seemed really keen to show us was his long-suffering French girlfriend, Cyrille, being smothered in kisses. Cyrille eventually gave him the boot over the satellite phone, so perhaps he was just feeling nostalgic. Either way we got an awful lot of snogage, plus a more than generous dollop of the wobbly up-

nose, round-ankle and in-ear shots that have made watching this hand-held series a fairly nauseous experience.

Under the quite understandable misapprehension that it was compulsory for a *Video Diaries* subject to have at least one missing parent, Bramford wasted valuable time failing to get in touch with the father he, and now we, have never met.

The film was at its best in Bosnia, capturing the often dull, occasionally dangerous and frequently exasperating nature of the UN's peacekeeping role. Billed with a Serb family in Pale, working with Irish and Czech colleagues and with Muslim friends in Sarajevo, Bramford's early set-back on personal peacekeeping unwittingly echoed the wider ethnic impasse developing around him. A translator would not stop smoking in the office. "The

non-smokers are in the majority," Bramford fumed, "I can't believe she won't stop smoking."

Earlier, I had spent an enjoyable half an hour with Richard III, enjoyable in that anything that limits time in the company of that "lump of foul deformity" to just 30 minutes must be a good thing. And Shakespeare: The Animated Tales (BBC 2) is a very good thing. Certainly it rattled on with the plot. No sooner had discontent got off its wintery start, than the bodies start piling up - brothers, princes, wives are all dispatched at speed. Antony Sher re-created his splendidly evil Richard for the film, beautifully animated by the Russian company, Christmas Films. Such a provenance, however, presumably reduces the startling resemblance between Richard's understandably unhappy mother, the Duchess of York, and her modern-day counterpart, to mere coincidence. Doesn't it?

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (35086)
- 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (9668176)
- 9.00am Kilroy: Topical studio discussion (2441680)
- 10.00am News (Ceeft) and weather (5782512)
- 10.05 Good Morning with Anne and Nick: Weekly family magazine (5) (5072131)
- 12.00am News (Ceeft), regional news and weather (7910048) 12.05pm Pebble Mill (5) (6580406) 12.55 Regional News and weather (26876357)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceeft) and weather (20593)
- 1.30 Neighbours (Ceeft) (5) (55153798)
- 1.50 Mary Berry's Ultimate Cake (5) (58411970) 2.00 The History Man: Three hundred years ago the East Anglian village of Bungay was completely destroyed by fire (7546884)
- 2.05 FILM: Cinderella (1950) starring Jerry Lewis as a boy who is ill-treated by his wicked stepmother. However, help is at hand in the form of his very own fairy godfather. Directed by Frank Tashlin (5421203)
- 3.30 The Little Polar Bear (5) (3700832) 3.35 William's Wish Wellingtons (5) (3709203) 3.40 Fireman Sam (3720798) 3.50 Brum (5) (4702681) 4.05 The Animals of Parthling Wood (1) (Ceeft) (5) (5523607) 4.30 Pirates (Ceeft) (5) (5705894)
- 4.55 Newsround (2973338) 5.05 Blue Peter (Ceeft) (5) (2541883)
- 5.35 Neighbours (1) (Ceeft) (5) (364512)
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceeft) and weather (51)
- 6.30 Regional News Magazines (13): Northern Ireland: Neighbours
- 7.00 Top of the Pops (Ceeft) (5) (5951)
- 7.30 EastEnders (Ceeft) (5) (15)
- 8.00 Children's Hospital: Including a report on two-year-old Jonathan Laws who had a tumour in his kidney removed in the last series. However, it has unexpectedly come back and after intensive therapy, he is due for a body scan. (Ceeft) (5898)
- 8.30 2point4 Children (4408) Wales: Holiday
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceeft), regional news and weather (3512)



Nick Ross is looking for clues (9.30pm)

- 9.30 Crimewatch UK presented by Nick Ross and Sue Cook (Ceeft) (5) (787009)
- 10.15 Question Time with David Dimbleby: The guests are Christine Odoon, editor of the Catholic Herald, Barbara Perry of Southwark and MPs Frank Dobson and Charles Kennedy. (Ceeft) (387932) Wales: The State 10.45 Question Time 11.45 Crimewatch UK Update 11.55 Midnight Caller 12.40-2.20am Film: Cannon for Cordoba
- 11.15 Crimewatch UK Update (Ceeft) (5) (497947)
- 11.25 Midnight Caller (Ceeft) (5) (463338)
- 12.15am FILM: Cannon for Cordoba (1970) starring George Peppard. Set in 1912 on the Texas border, an American army captain leads his men against a gang of increasingly daring and deadly Mexican bandits. Directed by Paul Verdon (11836)
- 1.55 Weather (9045655)
- 3.00 BBC Select: RGN Nursing Update (84988). Ends at 3.30

BBC2

- 7.00am Teddy Trucks (1) (5887561) 7.05 Philbert the Frog (1) (5888332) 7.10 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (1) (Ceeft) (7104113) 7.35 Smart (1) (Ceeft) (5) (5180583)
- 8.00 Breakfast News (Ceeft) and weather (5782512) 8.15 Westminster Daily (2155066)
- 9.00 Daytime on Two: Educational programmes. Plus, for children, 10.00-10.25 Playdays (5) (67148) 1.45 Storytime (5) (5605680) 2.00 Wishing (1) (5) (5736703)
- 2.10 Carol and Company starring Carol Burnett (2685408) 2.35 What a Carry On! Cipe from Carry On films (5059884)
- 3.00 News (Ceeft) and weather followed by Westminster Live (Ceeft) (558185)
- 3.50 News (Ceeft) and weather (3717222)
- 4.00 Today's the Day with Maryn Lewis (1) (5) (5736703)
- 4.30 From the Edge (Ceeft) (28)
- 5.00 Home Front: Series about furnishing and decorating the home (7357)
- 5.30 Catchword with Paul Cole (50)
- 6.00 FILM: Checkpoint (1957), starring Anthony Steel and Odile Versois. A bid to headhunt an Italian car designer ends in theft and murder. Directed by Ralph Thomas (740262) Wales: The Boy and Back in Town 6.15 Dwell Lights 6.25 The Big Trip 7.00 University Challenge
- 7.20 Dwell Lights: Dwell Day (Ceeft) (542999)
- 7.30 First Sight: Are health service checks on private nursing homes adequate? (57) Wales: Wipeout: East: Matters of Fact; Midlands: Midlands Report; South: Southern Eye; South-west: Close Up; West: Close Up West
- 8.00 Further Abroad: Jonathan Meades investigates the architecture of office blocks (1) (5241)
- 8.30 Top Gear: Stephen Bailey takes a look at the revamped Volkswagen Polo (5) (2048)
- 9.00 The X-Files: Ghost in the Machine. Investigations into the paranormal. (Ceeft) (5) (433135)



Bob and Babs Brunning look back (9.45pm)

- 9.45 Forbidden Britain: Juvenile Crime (Ceeft) (5) (773408)
- 10.30 Newswatch with Kirsty Wark (Ceeft) (248319)
- 11.15 Late Review: Tales from Berlin. Mark Lawson chairs a discussion live from Berlin (5) (764338) 11.55 Weather (556528)
- 12.00 FILM: As Time Goes By (1987). In the Australian desert a man witnesses an explosion in the sky which reveals a spaceship called Joe Bogart's Diner and an assortment of madcap characters. Directed by Barry Peak (126856). Ends at 1.40am

CHOICE

Forbidden Britain BBC2, 9.45pm

From the makers of *A Secret World of Sex* comes a new series of first-hand accounts about the seamer side of life between 1900 and 1960. Its thesis is that issues such as extramarital affairs, homelessness, public disorder, child sexual abuse and unemployment are not just products of the modern era but have deep roots in history. This opening episode lifts the lid on juvenile crime with some gripping accounts of street gangs, early joyriders, so-called 'sexual delinquents' and young army deserters who burgled people's houses during air raids. We hear some interesting statistics - between 1939 and 1941 there was a 50 per cent rise in recorded crime among the young - but the offences recounted do not seem to measure up to today's horrors.

Critical Eye: The Lost Generation? Channel 4, 9.00pm

An interesting counterpart to *Forbidden Britain*, *Critical Eye* paints a depressing picture of disillusioned young people in the 1950s. Rather than take a moral line about unacceptable teenage behaviour, the programme looks at how the young are treated by society. Some nasty vicious circles are exposed. Even if they have left home, 16 to 17-year-olds have no access to income support. Youth Training Schemes, they complain, do not pay enough for them to make ends meet. For some the answer is crime. Others have taken to squatting and renovating property, but the Criminal Justice Bill will outlaw such lifestyles. There is plenty of bitterness, but what is missing from many of the interviews is much energy or will to change their future.



Richard Vranich sets the challenges (C 4, 8.00pm)

Beat That Einstein Channel 4, 8.00pm

In an inspiring new series, Richard Vranich, rather unfortunately pigeon-holed as that man behind the piano in *Whose Line is it Anyway?*, proves that a) he can speak, b) he is funny and c) he has a PhD in nuclear physics. The idea of the show is to take a group of not particularly scientific members of the public and set off on difficult challenges. Today Vranich casts a fond eye on Jasper, Tricia, Tony, Geoff and Nerys as they locate a piano and its player at the bottom of the vehicle. Living in Britain, you probably cannot get on a bus at all. A shame-making item in this programme made by the BBC's Disability Programmes Unit takes actress Julie Fernandez across the Atlantic to discover the radical improvements that have happened since the Americans with Disabilities Act was passed. Also in the show is a profile of photographer Mandy Halloway and the story of a man who was paralysed in an accident involving a taxi but has since driven a similar cab round the world. Stephanie Billen

CARLTON

- 6.00am GMTV (3780999)
- 9.25 Supermarket Sweep (5) (4862300) 9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (6724222)
- 10.00 The Time... The Place (9373338)
- 10.35 This Morning presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan (7327785) 1.45 Astro Farm Today (Teletext) and weather (7909932)
- 12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (7407965)
- 12.55 Emmerdale (1) (Teletext) (5857226)
- 1.25 Home and Away (Teletext) (2068553)
- 1.55 Vanessa: Vanessa Feltz tackles another issue that women hold dear (52793715) 2.25 A Country Practice (5) (23600715) 2.50 Gardeners' Diary (7737338)
- 3.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (6017357) 3.25 London Today (Teletext) and weather (6016628)
- 3.30 The Riddlers (4726241) 3.40 Wzadoma (5) (3715564) 3.50 Brit Allcott's Magic Adventures of Muriel (5) (4737357) 4.05 Astro Farm (Teletext) (5) (3906611) 4.30 Garfield and Friends (1) (7073970) 4.45 Bad Influence (5) (5728715)
- 5.10 After 5 (Teletext) (2535222)
- 5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (983796)
- 5.55 Your Show: Viewers' soapbox (323406)
- 6.00 Home and Away (1) (Teletext) (19)
- 6.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (99)
- 7.00 Emmerdale (Teletext) (1319)
- 7.30 The Big Story: Why do some sick children receive life-saving treatment on the NHS while others have to pay? (5) (83)



Tom Butcher and Andrew Paul (8.00pm)

- 8.00 The Bill: The Sixth Age. Loxton (Tom Butcher) and Quinlan (Andrew Paul) are drawn into a web of intrigue and violence when they attend an incident at a local tea dance. (Teletext) (1357)
- 8.30 Blues and Twos: Medevac. An episode from the last series, when the control room in the City of London is rocked by the Bishopsgate bomb (1) (5) (5574)
- 9.00 Taggart: Hellfire. The conclusion of the investigation into the mysterious death of a whisky baron. (Teletext) (5) (8425)
- 10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (74777)
- 10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (744999)
- 10.40 Revelations. Drama about a wealthy Bishop's family (1) (327748)
- 11.10 The European Match - Highlights. Arsenal v Brondy (577241)
- 12.00am Big City (5) (1532907)
- 12.40 The Best (1) (5) (8979433)
- 1.40 The Little Picture Show (1) (5258365)
- 2.40 The Album Show (1) (5) (6910758)
- 3.40 America's Top Ten (1) (5) (26843162)
- 4.10 Quiz Night. The Sportsman from Sheffield v The Blegwarr Inn from Aberdeen (58037278)
- 4.35 Beyond Reality (1) (1808048)
- 5.00 Videoflash (1) (60810)
- 5.30 ITN Morning News (43094). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.30am Terrytoons. Classic cartoons (1) (25339)
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast (10116)
- 9.00 You Bet Your Life (1) (84154)
- 9.30 Schools: Middle English (5334406) 9.45 The Maths Programme (8276796) 10.05 Scientific Eye (8781512) 10.27 Geographical Eye (8645390) 10.50 Your World (4749319) 11.00 Believe it or Not (3098628) 11.16 Reviewing the Landscape (3078135) 11.40 French Programme (5) (5912066)
- 12.00 House to House (54339)
- 12.30pm Sesame Street (37951) 1.30 Lift Off (5) (13154)
- 2.00 FILM: I Can Get It For You Wholesale (1951). b/w starring Susan Hayward, Dean Jagger and George Sanders. Romantic drama directed by Michael Gordon. (Teletext) (223338)
- 3.40 Down to Sussex. A 1965 British Rail short about the beauty of Sussex (5047393)
- 4.00 Members Only. Ray Goeling explores the world of the South West branch of the Harley-Davidson Riders' Club. (Teletext) (5) (12)
- 4.30 Fifteen to One. (Teletext) (5) (96)
- 4.50 The Oprah Winfrey Show. An Antiques Roadshow version, with the studio audience bringing in their heirlooms for evaluation. (Teletext) (5) (2671609)
- 5.00 Terrytoons. Vintage cartoons (348357)
- 5.50 Home Improvement (1) (Teletext) (5) (61)
- 6.30 Roseanne (1) (Teletext) (5) (41)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (877563)
- 7.50 Belfast Lessons (50703)
- 8.00 Best That Exist. (Teletext) (5) (1)
- 8.30 Screaming Reels. Nick Fisher meets the Calithness Sea Anglers, hears about the threat from aggressive crayfish in the Serpentine and goes fishing off the coast of Florida. (Teletext) (5) (7116)

- 9.00 Critical Eye: The Lost Generation? (Teletext) (5) (7067)
- 10.00 Drop the Dead Donkey. Hilarious topical comedy set in a neurotic television newsroom (5) (72319)
- 10.30 Bakersfield P.D. American police comedy series (Teletext) (5) (521425)
- 11.05 The Good Woman of Bangkok. From the True Stories stand, the story of Dennis O'Rourke, an Australian who went to Thailand to make a film about the life of a prostitute, and fell in love with her (1) (516135)
- 12.30am The World of Hammer. Clips from costume adventures (1000452)
- 1.05 Dispatches (1) (Teletext) (5) (56177)
- 1.50 Tribute To Ricky Nelson. With contributions from, among others, Fats Domino, Carl Perkins and Roy Orbison (1) (5564617)
- 2.45 FILM: Pagliaccio (1943, b/w). An Italian screen adaptation of Leoncavallo's opera about an eternal triangle with a wronged husband, Fredralino. Starring Gino Locollo (the role sung by Onelia Fieschi), Aldo Poli (Galliano Masini) and Tito Gobbi. Directed by Mario Costa (240836). Ends at 4.05

VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
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SPORT

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 3 1994

Rangers set to lose manager

Francis ready to open path to Tottenham

By JOHN GOODBODY

GERRY Francis is today expected to resign as the manager of Queens Park Rangers amid growing speculation that he is to move from west London to north London and take over Osvaldo Ardiles' role at Tottenham Hotspur.

Although Tottenham insisted yesterday that no permanent appointment was "imminent", Francis remained a favourite for the job, which was vacated when Ardiles was dismissed on Monday night.

Alan Sugar, the Tottenham chairman, also insisted that he had not contacted another possible replacement for Ardiles — David Platt, a former manager at White Hart Lane who is now at Luton Town.

Francis was last night continuing talks with Richard Thompson, the majority shareholder at Queens Park Rangers, as some leading players were warning that they might want to leave the club if Francis resigned.

David Bardsley, the England full back, who signed a new contract with Rangers, said: "I only signed to stay with Gerry Francis. If he stepped down now, I would

not be too keen to stay. I really enjoy working with him and I know most of the lads do."

Much of the uncertainty at the club has been caused by the prospect of Rodney Marsh, a member of the Rangers team that won the 1967 League Cup, coming to the club as chief executive. There is a clash of personalities between Francis and Marsh, who has been living in the United States.

However, Marsh emphasised yesterday that he had still to accept the offer from Thompson to begin work at Loftus Road. He said: "I have heard that Gerry has called it a day at the club, but I still want to sit down with him and have a long chat. I keep saying I am a fan of his and it is true."

Peter Ellis, the Rangers chairman, added: "I am sad that Gerry feels upset like this, but Rodney, like Gerry, has Rangers running through his blood. It just might be that he has something to offer the club. But nothing has yet been agreed."

The whole situation at Loftus Road has been further complicated by a struggle for

control at the club between the board and a consortium, which includes Chris Wright, the head of Chrysalis Television, and Kaveh Alamouti, a banker and another Rangers supporter. Talks have already taken place between Marsh and the consortium, which has plans to bring in Ray Wilkins, if Francis refuses to work with Marsh.

A spokesman for the consortium said: "We want to bring Rangers people back to the club. We are very keen to have Rodney on board. He is a hero at the club and Rangers through and through."

Richard Thompson is trying to appease the fans by appointing Marsh. It remains to be seen whether he can do that. We feel Thompson's position at the club is untenable. Thompson is understood to want £15 million for the club, while the consortium has been advised that its true value is only half that figure.

The struggle between Sugar and Terry Venables, the England coach and former Tottenham chief executive, continued at the High Court yesterday. There was first a bid to make Venables bankrupt, which was withdrawn at the last moment. However, Nick Trainer, Venables' solicitor, said that the dispute with Finers, the London solicitor, had been settled earlier this year and the withdrawal of the bankruptcy petition was "a formality".

Then, in another court, Tottenham and Sugar claimed they had "lost confidence" in the liquidator of Edennote, Venables' insolvent company, and wanted him replaced. Richard McCombe QC, acting for Tottenham, alleged that Stephen Ryman, the liquidator, had failed to act in the interests of Edennote's creditors as a whole and had "evinced an intention to act solely for the benefit of one creditor, Mr Venables". The case continues today.

Sporting Bilbao, page 44
Huddle's problems, page 44



Mike Gatting loses his cap during fielding practice in Adelaide yesterday as the England cricket party prepares for its four-day match against South Australia, which starts tomorrow. The squad had

arrived from Perth to be met by conditions more akin to an English summer, heavy rain forcing the cancellation of a planned session in the nets. England will be without Alec Stewart

and Shaun Udal, who are injured. White, Gough and Tufnell, who missed the match against Western Australia, play their first matches of the tour. Photograph: Graham Morris. Report, page 42

Herbert out to impress by ending Hill's quest on Sunday

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN TOKYO

JOHNNY Herbert last night embraced his new role as the potential kingmaker of Formula One and backed his Benetton team-mate, Michael Schumacher, to end Damon Hill's world championship hopes with a race to spare at the Japanese Grand Prix, in Suzuka, on Sunday.

Herbert, who is still coming to terms with his rapid end-of-season elevation from Lotus and the back of the grid to Benetton via a one-race stay at Ligier, said he was confident that Schumacher would win the race on Sunday and that he would finish second, making it impossible for Hill to overhaul the young German in the final race of the season, the Australian Grand Prix, in Adelaide, a week later.

Speaking at a sponsorship event at an indoor ski slope in the outskirts of the city, Herbert said he was determined to seize his own brief moment of glory while he had the opportunity to drive what is commonly perceived to be the sport's best car. Hill, he said, would be the victim.

There is no purpose in me helping Damon, Herbert said. "I am here for myself. This is my chance to show what I can do given the right equipment. If Damon is better than me, he will beat me, but I think he is a bit scared about it. I am one more thing for him to worry about, and I think he will be very on-edge."

"If you look at the performance of Benetton this season, they have always done better during the race than in qualifying, and I don't think Michael will have any problems winning here. He deserves it, and I will do my best to make sure he gets it and that Benetton win the constructors' championship in the process."

"If the situation arises where I have to pull over to let Michael through, then I would have no problem with that. It would be great to beat him, but I don't think it would go down too well with the team and I want to impress them. I have a contract with Ligier for next season, but you never know what might happen if I drive to my potential in the last two races."

Schumacher said: "If somebody can come out of Suzuka as a champion, it will be me. We will try everything to make the decision in the Suzuka race. We are very well prepared."

Larrousse, the French motor racing team, said yesterday that Jean-Denis Deletraz, the Swiss driver, would make his Formula One debut at the Australian Grand Prix later this month. Deletraz, 31, has made his name in sports car and Formula 3000 racing in recent seasons.

Joker in pack, page 46

Kendall returns to Preston rumours

HOWARD Kendall's decision to leave the Greek club, Xanthi, has put further pressure on the manager of Preston North End, John Beck. Kendall has returned home for "family reasons", but there have also been rumours linking him to an appointment at Deepdale, where he began his career 33 years ago. There is also a suggestion that he could be joined by Peter Reid, who played under Kendall at Everton and, like Kendall, went on to manage Manchester City.

Preston have the spending power to lure Kendall as a result of a £10 million takeover by a local heating firm, Baxi, but they have lost their last

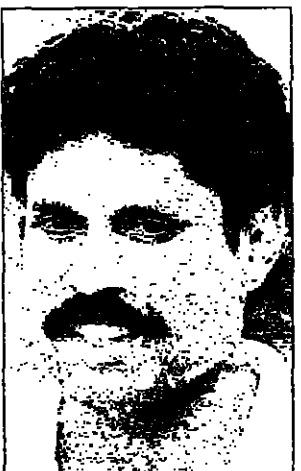
seven matches and slipped to their lowest league position — sixteenth in the Endleigh Insurance League third division — for eight years. Defeat at Mansfield on Saturday would see them equal an unwanted club record.

Indeed, Preston have won only once at home all season and last weekend frustrated supporters staged a demonstration calling for Beck to go. The Preston board maintains it will not consider Beck's position until after the FA Cup tie with Blackpool on November 14.

"It's an important match and we want to let John get on with it," a club spokesman said yesterday.

Kapil decides on new direction for his all-round talents

By GEOFFREY WHEELER



Kapil: retiring with record

KAPIL Dev, the only player to have scored 5,000 runs and taken 400 wickets in Test match cricket — he is the world record-holder with 434 wickets — announced his retirement yesterday. One of India's greatest sporting heroes, he is to become a television commentator.

Kapil, 35, was the youngest of a quartet of great all-rounders who graced the cricketing stage in the 1980s. While Imran Khan was a faster and more explosive bowler, Ian Botham, in his pomp, a greater match-winner and Richard Hadlee unsurpassed as an artist with the

ball, Kapil Dev brought a new dimension to Indian cricket.

Although he could play all the wristy strokes that are the hallmark of batsmen from the sub-continent, he was, coming from the Punjab, taller and stronger than the average Indian player, and had power to spare.

In the Lord's Test of 1990, when India seemed doomed to follow on, Kapil saved it by hitting four successive balls from Eddie Hemmings straight for six with strokes of such power and timing that they appeared almost disdainful. Although he could never be counted among the fastest of the great ball bowlers he was remarkably accurate

KAPIL'S TEST RECORD

Batting/fielding	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	Ct
	131	194	15	5248	163	31.05	8	27	84
Bowling	O	M	R	W	Avg	5W	10W		
	4623.2	1090	12867	434	29.94	9-83	20	5	18

More wickets than any other player, more matches than anyone else Allan Border (156).

and possessed a superb outswinger. A hamstring strain, allied to a knee injury that has restricted his bowling in recent months, kept him out of the present triangular series, also involving West Indies and New Zealand.

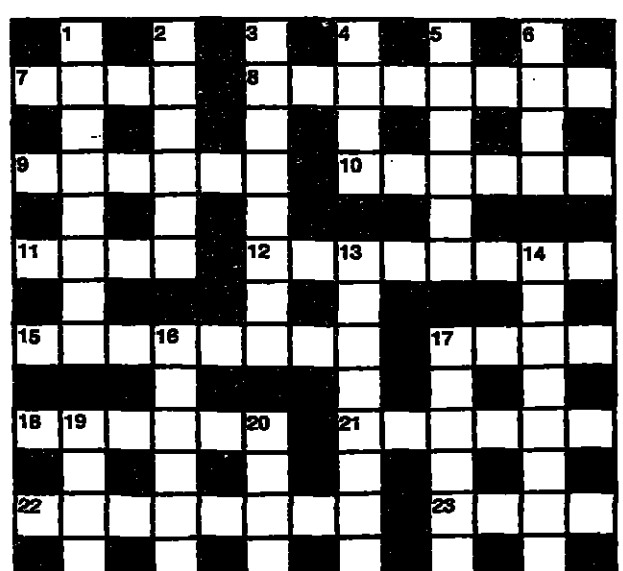
At a press conference in New Delhi to announce his decision, Kapil said the greatest moment of his career had been leading India to victory

television started celebrating and one admirer presented him with a diamond-studded set of stumps.

Kapil half-acknowledged that he might have gone on too long. "I have been superbly treated by the players, cricket officials and selectors," he said, adding that he was happy to leave the game, after playing in 131 Test matches, with so many promising bowlers coming through in India.

Kapil, from Chandigarh, made his debut for India against Pakistan at Faisalabad at the age of 19 in 1978. In his 184 innings he scored 5,248 runs at an average of 31.05, hitting eight centuries. His

wickets cost him 29.64 runs apiece, his best figures being nine for 83 against West Indies in Ahmedabad in 1983. He also held the record for the number of wickets in one-day internationals until his tally of 251 was overtaken in August by Wasim Akram, of Pakistan.



FINE ATLASES from Times Books (Reduced postage until Dec 31)
The Times Atlas of the World: 9th Comprehensive Edition £85.50; 6th Concise £35.50 — Family £17.49 — Compact £8.49 — Pocket £5.49. The Times Atlas of World History £40.50. Concise Edition (pbk) NEW £15.49. The Times Atlas of World Exploration £25.50. The Times Atlas & Encyclopedia of the Sea £28. The Times Atlas of the Bible £30. Concise Edn £10.49. The Times Atlas of Archaeology £35.50. The Times London History Atlas £23.49. The Times Atlas of European History NEW £25.50.
Prices include P&P (UK) Cheques payable to Atom Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Tel 081-852 4575 (24hrs) No credit cards.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 309

- ACROSS
- 7 Bigness (4)
 - 8 Raised path through water (8)
 - 9 Cross eyes (6)
 - 10 Collect together (6)
 - 11 Ice-cream holder; solid figure (4)
 - 12 International relief organisation (3,5)
 - 15 Tied race (4,4)
 - 17 Stratagem (4)
 - 18 Damage with heat; drive very fast (6)
 - 21 Persian king; invaded Greece (6)
 - 22 Naughty deeds (8)

SOLUTION TO NO 308

- ACROSS: 1 Lock up 5 Rebuff 8 Unit 9 Resolute 10 Urchin 12 Rapt 15 The ayes have it 16 Spit 17 Shaman 19 Gruesome 21 Dive 22 Vessel 23 Settle
- DOWN: 2 Ownership 3 Kit 4 Pyrenees 5 Risk 6 Belgravia 7 Fit 11 Heartless 13 Primeval 14 Whiskers 18 Poll 20 Rue 21 Dor

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game L Bronstein - Pirrot, Buenos Aires, 1994. The black bishop is unhappily incarcerated on c8, playing no part in the game. White now found a clever way to put it out of its misery. What did he play?

Solution, page 43
Raymond Keene, page 6



WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ACTINIAN
a. A heavy metal element
b. A sea urchin
c. Liver on the sea-shore

ESRAJ
a. A stringed instrument
b. Sea kale
c. A Jewish Indian

CHARRO
a. A Mexican cowboy
b. A South African barbecue
c. An Argentine polo player

FILLIS
a. Gardening twine
b. An Etruscan nymph
c. A type of bet

Answers on page 43

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